

WHY X-PAC AND KANE CAN NEVER GET ALONG!

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

**20th
ANNIVERSARY
READERS'
POLL
INSIDE!**

**WHY THE
WORLD
MUST
FEAR
SCOTT
STEINER**

- **Full-Color Centerfold:**
Mankind
- **Wake Up,**
Perry Saturn!
- **Press Conference:**
The Godfather

By Buff Bagwell

October 1999

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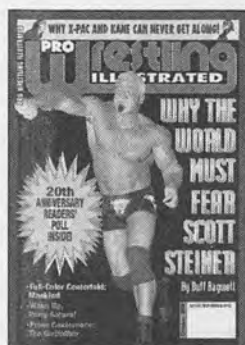
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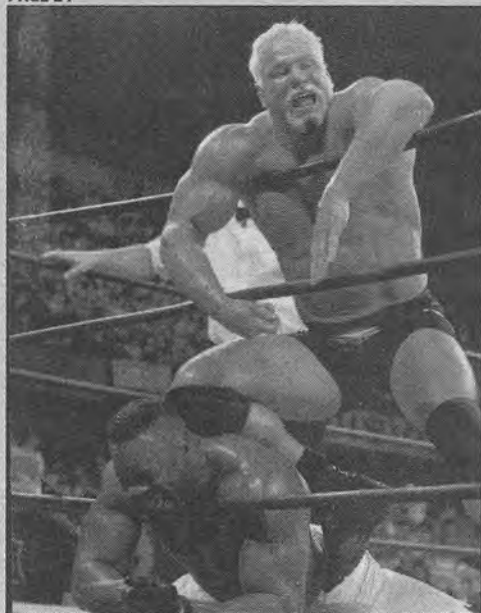
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Jeff Hardy is too much for Scott Taylor

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FROM THE DESK OF...

WOULDNT IT BE cool to own a piece—even a small piece—of the World Wrestling Federation? Wouldn't it be great to know that when you spend money on WWF pay-per-views, WWF magazines, WWF video games, and WWF foam middle fingers that you're really putting money in your own pocket? Wouldn't it be outrageous to be able to look at the Nielsen ratings and say, without being accused of being an overzealous fan, that we kicked WCW's butt this week? How about picking up the day's mail and finding an annual report from Titan Sports, breaking down the company's financial statements and offering you an opportunity to select its board of directors?

Well, that fantasy might soon become a reality if the World Wrestling Federation's reported plan to trade its stock publicly comes to fruition. According to *Variety*, the WWF hopes to raise \$150-million by offering a minority stake in the company's stock. Ultimately, the report said, the public offering would bring the value of the WWF to \$750-million.

And a few of those dollars might actually be mine!

I, Stu Saks, own the WWF. That's the way people who own stock speak about the companies in which they invest. I own Microsoft. I own America Online. All you need to do is purchase a minimal amount of shares and you, too, can get in on the fun. Now, let's all take a deep breath and maybe a bit of reality will enter our bodies by accident. This isn't about fun. We're talking money. Your money, my money. Serious stuff.

If, indeed, the WWF goes public (and the very serious Bear Stearns is underwriting the offering), you may want to get in on the action. Now I'm not a financial wizard and, in fact, I don't know much, but I do know that if you invest money to be cool, you're an idiot. If you have a need to look cool, invest your money in a sports car. At least you can show a car off around town. You can't go around showing off a stock certificate; that most certainly is not cool.

If, on the other hand, you truly believe investing in the WWF is a sound financial choice, you might want to take a shot at it. There are those who will say that the WWF, like the publicly traded Green Bay Packers and Boston Celtics, is banking on the fanaticism of its patrons to inflate the value of its stock. And while that may be true, there is a big difference between publicly traded sports teams (which generally don't make much money for their investors) and the WWF. The upside growth in sports teams is somewhat limited. While there are more revenue streams now than ever before in all sports, and the TV contracts are astronomical, the players' salaries keep escalating, as does the competition for the public's entertainment dollars. The WWF, meanwhile, has evolved to the point at which it probably earns more money from ancillary income (licensing, publishing, merchandising, etc.) than it does the actual wrestling events. It is not only working hard to produce even more sources of revenue, but to also tap into the remaining public that never before considered spending time and money on wrestling, *er*, sports entertainment.

Would I invest in the WWF? I'm not going to say. But I will say this: A few years ago, when the WWF was struggling to survive in the war with WCW, I remember writing something like this. "If the WWF were trading on the stock market, this would be the ideal time to invest. Its value is low, but the letters W-W-F still represent the brand name in this business—and it still has Vince McMahon calling the shots."

Now the question is this: Has the WWF's popularity peaked and would investing be wise at this time? Ask 10 people: Five will say yes and five will say no. You do what you think is best. But take this seriously. You should set financial goals for yourself and know what you can afford to lose. Remember, wrestling people know how to sell. You have to know how to say no.

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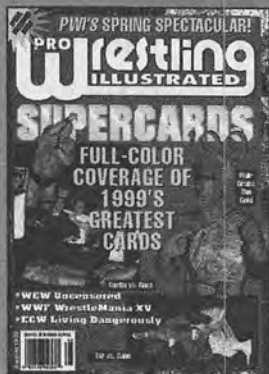
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between falls

SUPER SUPERCARDS?



Steve Austin finally got his revenge on The Rock at WrestleMania XV. Ric Flair won his unprecedented 14th world heavyweight title at WCW Uncensored. Taz barely escaped with both his life and his title at ECW Living Dangerously.

The editors of *PWI* featured those three cards as their 1999 supercards in the special August '99 issue. Not everyone agreed with our picks.

"I think you were right on when you made Uncensored and Living Dangerously two of your supercards for 1999," wrote Jamie Bowin of Seattle. "But your inclusion of WrestleMania XV is a travesty. That wasn't a WrestleMania; that was barely a decent Raw."

"ECW stepped up to the plate once again and hit a home run," wrote Patrick Temple of Ridley Park, Pennsylvania. "Uncensored and WrestleMania were okay, but Living Dangerously was the bomb."

"All I can say is I was able to watch Ric Flair pin Hollywood Hogan to win the WCW World title," e-mailed Colin Cork of Boston. "That match alone made Uncensored my own personal supercard."

FAN CRIES FOUL

I've just finished reading the article, "Why Sting Said These Shocking Words!" (July 1999). I have to say Flair screwed Sting out of a U.S. title shot that he rightfully deserved.

I also think WCW has screwed Sting many times in the past. First they screwed him when Hogan came to WCW and the powers-that-be made him the top wrestler. Then they screwed Sting by not giving him shots at Hogan's World title. Then they screwed him again when Luger and others accused him of joining the original NWO. Sting deserves more from WCW because he has been there through thick and thin. He is the cornerstone of WCW.

HAROLD PAWLIK
Erie, PA

DEMISE OF DX

What happened to DX? When Shawn Michaels, "Triple-H," and Chyna were the only members, DX was the coolest group around. Even after Shawn Michaels left the group, the additions of The New Age Outlaws and X-Pac made DX stronger than ever before.

Now, "Triple-H" and Chyna have left for The Corporate Ministry, X-Pac is a tag team champion along with Kane, and "Road Dogg" and Billy Gunn seem to be fighting amongst themselves rather than against their competition.

I think the group just lost its focus. All the members, instead of being satisfied with being part of the most elite group of athletes inside the WWF, decided to pursue their glory elsewhere, and on an individual basis.

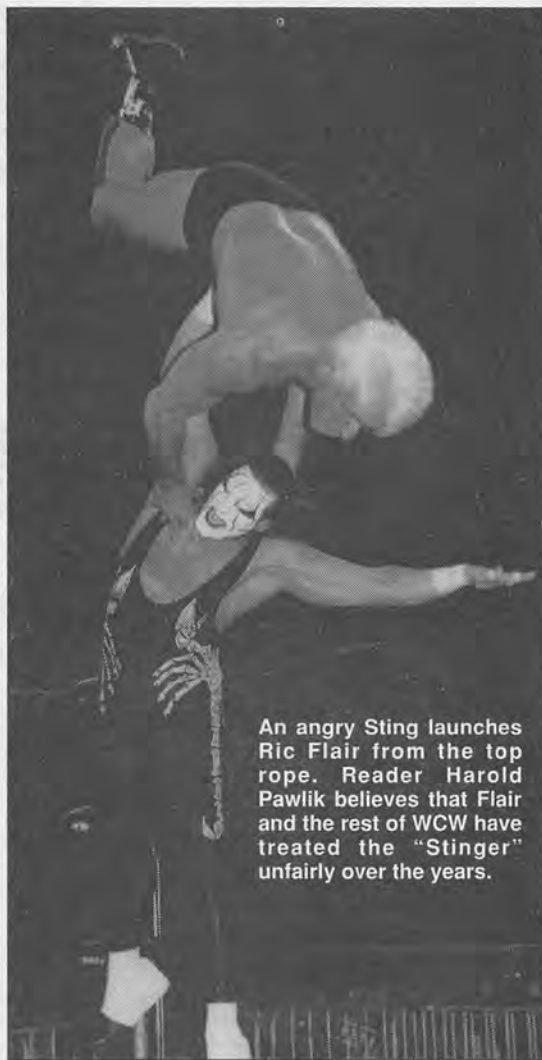
DX has always been and will always be my favorite troop of renegade wrestlers, but I just hope that the remain-

ing members can co-exist with one another to make another go of it.

KATE EMPLIT
Palos Verdes, CA

ANOTHER FAN FOR BILL

Thank you for the "Press Conference" with Bill Goldberg in the June 1999 issue; it was great. Goldberg didn't whine about the controversial defeat at Starrcade in that interview. Instead he took defeat as a man and



An angry Sting launches Ric Flair from the top rope. Reader Harold Pawlik believes that Flair and the rest of WCW have treated the "Stinger" unfairly over the years.

learned from it. Even better, he emerged as a better wrestler, scoring wins over Scott Hall, Bam Bam Bigelow, and Hak.

This should prove to Goldberg's detractors just what kind of wrestler he is. I also think the loss was a boon to Goldberg, as he is no longer under the microscope, and he isn't burdened with trying to remain undefeated. I am now fully behind Bill Goldberg.

ARTHUR GOODWIN
Sacramento, CA

SHAME ON FRANK

Recently, Frank Krewda criticized Rob Van Dam and ECW because RVD was featured in *High Times* magazine ("Krew-Cuts," July 1999). I think this is careless on the part of *PWI* because you gave *High Times* free press.

I'm sure many kids who would've never known otherwise went out to find this issue of *High Times* after seeing it mentioned in *PWI*.

As far as the article giving wrestling a bad name, boo-hoo. I will always like wrestling, regardless of what anyone else thinks. You're a *wrestling* magazine, and you should concentrate on wrestling.

CHRIS HORTON
Milan, IN

WHAT HAPPENED?

I am disgusted with the current state of the WWF. The sideshow has suddenly become the main attraction.

Maybe I'm old-fashioned, but I fail to see what blood rites have to do with wrestling. Of course, I'm referring to The Undertaker. He seems to have buried (no

pun intended) himself in his role, and is devoting more time to crucifying people and stalking Stephanie McMahon than he is devoting to wrestling.

Plus, there isn't a single person who is capable of running the WWF, especially not Shane McMahon. That became evident when he retired the European title, and when he pushed Steve Austin to the point at which Austin and Paul Wight destroyed the Titantron.

I will be devoting my time and attention to WCW until the condition of the WWF improves.

DAN PECHKUROW
Bedford, OH

MUST BE HEAVEN

It's a great time to be a wrestling fan! You can tune into the WWF's Monday night melee, *Raw*, for energy and theatrics. If you happen to be in the mood for an epic cruiserweight battle featuring great high-flying and technical wrestling, you can switch the channel to TNT's *Nitro*. If you crave the sight of blood and extreme insanity, ECW is definitely your bag. We as fans are experiencing pro wrestling nirvana!

I have supported the pro wrestling extravaganza for 10 years. It has never been more amusing to watch. What's my point? All I seem to read and hear these days are criticisms and complaints.

The rivalry between the WWF and WCW is hotter than ever. Sit back and enjoy the ride!

KEVIN KELLEY
Londonderry, NH



Criticize this? Reader Kevin Kelley claims to be in wrestling nirvana, and it's partly because of extreme wrestlers like New Jack.

FLOCKLESS

In the June 1999 "*PWI* Poll: 50 Hot Questions," I think the insiders made a smart choice in voting Billy Kidman the sport's best pound-for-pound wrestler.

Since Kidman stopped serving as a brainwashed flunky in Raven's Flock, he has become the most dominant cruiserweight competitor of this era.

With his daredevil aerial attacks and his determination to keep fighting when the odds are stacked against him, he always goes the extra mile to give fans more than their money's worth.

With impressive wins over Juventud Guerrera, Rey Mysterio Jr., Mikey Whipwreck, and everyone else in the cruiserweight division, Kidman, with a little more experience, could move on and make some serious challenges for the TV, U.S., and World titles if given the chance.

I believe what really makes Kidman the best young talent in the sport today is the fact that he is proof that you don't need a clique to succeed.

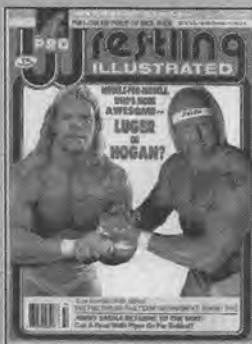
STEVE NARDI
West Berlin, NJ □

10 YEARS AGO IN PWI

The cover of the October 1989 issue of *PWI* featured a pair of the biggest stars in the sport, Hulk Hogan and Lex Luger. We were interested in finding out which of the two superstars was more awesome. *PWI* answered the question, declaring Hogan the winner after a thorough examination. Kevin Sullivan was also on the cover, demanding to know, "How good is Sting?"

Elsewhere in the magazine: Readers found out the true story behind the Jerry Lawler/Ali Perez feud ... Coverage of Jimmy Snuka's return to the WWF was provided ... Hogan had to take a deep breath as his new movie, *No Holds Barred*, was reviewed ... "Diamond" Dallas Page spoke out in "Press Conference" ... Rick Rude was the featured centerfold.

Magazine Availability: Limited.



RINGSIDE

With Will Welsh

YOU KNOW, WRESTLING fans, having just been officially added to the editorial staff of *PWI*, I consider it a real honor to have been assigned a column as prestigious as "Ring-side." I just hope I can live up to the precedent set by **Bill Apter**. I'm sure you guys will let me know if I don't.

May 23, 1999, is a date that wrestling fans will never forget. In one of the most tragic moments in professional wrestling history, **Owen Hart**, dressed as his superhero alter-ego, **The Blue Blazer**, fell approximately 50 feet to his death while descending from the rafters.

"We at the WWF are saddened by the tragic accident that occurred here tonight," **Vince McMahon** said during a press conference held after the *Over the Edge* pay-per-view. "We don't have any answer as to why this happened. There is an ongoing investigation."

The *Raw* following Owen's death will go down as the most touching professional wrestling program ever. The show, broadcast live from the Kiel Center in St. Louis, was a two-hour tribute to Hart. **Hunter Hearst Helmsley**, **Jeff Jarrett**, **Mark Henry**, and "Road Dogg" **Jesse James** were among the many WWF wrestlers and employees who talked about their memories of Owen before a nationwide audience, perhaps making it easier for all of us to deal with Owen's death.

The WWF took harsh criticism for its decision to continue with

Over the Edge following Hart's accident, but the following night's *Raw* certainly made up for it. The WWF should be commended on



It's hard to believe that Owen Hart is no longer with us. His May 23 death came as a shock to the industry—a shock from which everyone is still trying to recover. We miss you, Owen. You'll always be "The King Of Harts." Godspeed.

putting together such a touching tribute to one of its warriors fallen in battle.

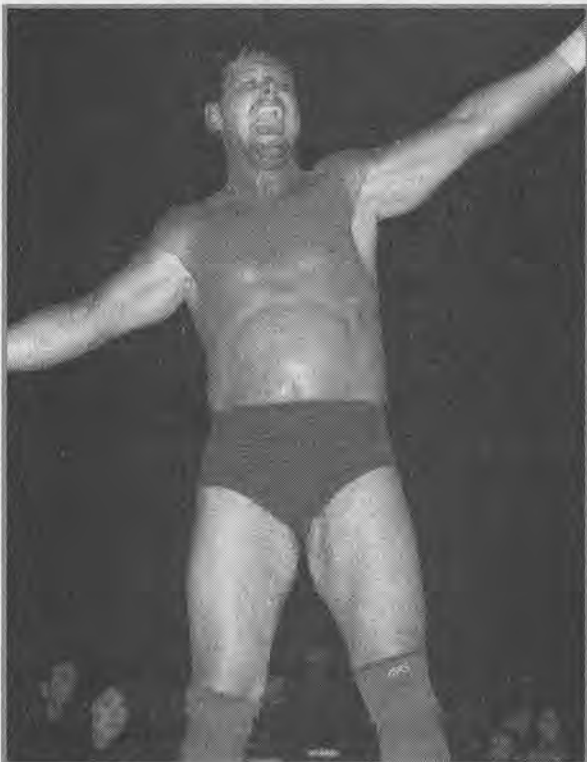
Owen Hart will go down as one of the most entertaining and skilled professional wrestlers of his time. Perhaps **Jeff Jarrett** said it best: "This is for the record—Owen Hart never was a nugget." No, Owen Hart never was a nugget. He was a wrestler who brought many a laugh and smile to my face, and to the faces of millions of other professional wrestling fans. He will be sorely missed.

All the members of the *PWI* staff wish to express their sincere condolences to his wife, **Martha**, and to his two children, **Oje** and **Athena**.

Eric Bischoff left wrestling fans scratching their heads in disbelief after his appearance at *Slam-boree*. "Easy-E" made his return to WCW TV very dramatic by showing up in time to overturn two very important decisions. First he reversed **Ric Flair's** tainted victory over **Roddy Piper**, briefly giving Piper presidential control over WCW. He also restarted the World title match between "Diamond" **Dallas Page** and **Kevin Nash** after **Randy Savage** interfered on Page's behalf and helped him pin "Big Sexy." Nash went on to beat Page for the title.

A week later, a silver-tongued and silver-haired Bischoff defended his actions in a taped interview on *Nitro*, saying he decided to flex his executive muscle simply because it was "the right thing to do." Kind of perplexing coming from a former NWO rogue who previously flexed his muscle only when it benefited **Hollywood Hogan** and friends. Still, this change of heart was nothing compared to the bombshell that came when Bischoff admitted before the world that WCW was no longer the number-one wrestling promotion in the country. Wow!

"I realize that I've made some mistakes in the past, some bad decisions," Bischoff said humbly.



Roddy Piper was the first WCW employee to benefit from Eric Bischoff's newfound righteousness. Whether Bischoff is truly behind WCW has yet to be seen, but his actions at Slamboree and comments on *Nitro* suggest he is.

"But I've also made some good decisions. Regardless of what I've done in the past, I am willing to do whatever it takes to make WCW the most successful company in the world again."

I was just about to scoop my jaw up from the floor when Bischoff took another bite of humble pie. "I know I've made some enemies along the way, and to them I say, 'I'm sorry.' To those of you who forgive me, thank you. To those of you who choose not to accept my apology, I understand."

Of course, it will take more than a few minutes of a taped interview for Bischoff to gain the trust of WCW fans, but I think there is good reason to believe he is sincere. After all, you don't confess your sins before a national audience unless you intend to make some kind of restitution. Bischoff realizes that his past actions have done extensive damage to WCW, and if things are to turn around, the turning must start with him. I could

be wrong, and Bischoff could betray us all again, but I'm willing to give him another chance.

Manager **Judd the Stud**, who handles the careers of Pennsylvania Championship Wrestling heavyweight champion **Lance Diamond**, **Reckless Youth**, and **Joe E. Legend**, has been suspended by the promotion for a year due to "conduct detrimental to professional wrestling." Diamond quickly took charge and brought in a manager from the Mexican ranks. The masked **El Hijo del Muerte**, who bears an uncanny resemblance to Stud, will take over the stable until his return.

Jeff Hamrick was stripped of the Eastern Wrestling Federation heavyweight title after he went on a tirade and threatened to beat up promoters following his match with **The Boston Brawler** on May 15 in Forest City, North Carolina.

Mr. Ooh La La has been making googly eyes at **Starla Sexton** in PCW, but was seeing stars after **Sexton** pinned him in a mixed tag match ... **Dan Severn** defeat-

ed **Ross Quam** in a recent martial arts match held in Rapid City, South Dakota. Severn ended the fight after 15 seconds with a submission hold known as the jawbreaker.

There is talk that All-Japan's **Mitsuharu Misawa** and New Japan's **Seiji Sakaguchi** and **Keiji Muto** are working to put together a New Japan, All-Japan, and WWF joint supercard in Tokyo. This would be the equivalent of the WWF, WCW, and a major Japanese promotion joining forces for a show in America.

Shane Douglas and ECW are at a crossroads. "The Franchise" and ECW owner **Paul Heyman** haven't met eye-to-eye or paycheck-to-wallet for quite some time, and it looks like Douglas is through with the organization. He wasn't at the Hardcore Heaven pay-per-view, claiming that ECW never contracted him for the show. Heyman's only public comment was to wish the four-time former ECW heavyweight champion the best of luck in his future endeavors.

Just before press time, however, Douglas said that until somebody

(Continued on page 54)



If Shane Douglas leaves ECW, doors might open up for younger stars such as Justin Credible. The ladder to the top sure would be easier to climb if there were no Douglas waiting at the top to smack down any wannabe "Franchises."

in focus

By Dave Lenker



Big surprise—Bret Hart showed up unannounced at Slamboree and *wasn't* in a good mood. The man has no problem finding things to complain about. What will it take to make the "Hitman" happy?

I WANT SOME ANSWERS!

Spring cleaning time here at *PWI*, and that means it's time for me to clear away some of the thoughts that have been cluttering up my brain for some time and get ready for another busy summer. Around here we know summer doesn't end until another edition of the "*PWI* 500" has been put to bed.

If you've been reading "In Focus" regularly for the last year or so, you might remember that I like to call this annual offering—

JUST WONDERING ...

•If **Bret Hart** somehow captured the WCW and WWF world heavyweight titles on the same night with clean, convincing victories, would he still find something to complain about?

•Will **Debra** still have a job in the WWF if fans ever get tired of seeing her strip?

•Anyone seen **Steve "Mongo" McMichael** recently?

•Anyone miss Steve "Mongo" McMichael's matches?

•Given what **Gorgeous George** wore to the ring at the May 3 *Nitro*, how could anyone in WCW be surprised that she came very close to falling completely out of her top?

•Couldn't anyone have come up with a more original name than Gorgeous George?

•How much per win will WCW end up paying **Mikey Whipwreck**? I'm not sure what his exact salary is, but as of mid-May, I hadn't seen him win a single match in his new federation.

•How many WCW employees actually drink Surge when the cameras aren't on them?

•Do you have just a little bit of a hard time believing **Bam Bam Bigelow** is the reigning "King Of Extreme" in WCW when he gets a federation employee to help him wheel out his bin full of weapons?

•For a while there we had **Ric Flair** serving as WCW president, **Roddy Piper** as commissioner, and **Charles Robinson** as vice president. What purpose did **J.J. Dillon** serve at the time?

•Is **Steve Austin** a total fool for thinking **Vince McMahon** has changed?

•What's with these tiny independent federations having U.S. titles to go with their heavyweight belts? As far as I can tell, the AWF, for example, only holds cards in Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina. But I'm guessing the federation's U.S. cham-

pion won't be obligated to defend his belt once the AWF starts touring Japan or Australia or the West Indies. Ditto for the Pennsylvania Championship Wrestling Americas champion.

- Does any federation executive remember what the original concept of a TV title was?

- Since when do psychiatric institutions allow TV shows to broadcast live from inside their walls?

- What's with that ridiculous white tape **Sting** wears over his boots?

- Can anyone in WCW come up with an explanation for why **Erik Watts** was signed?

- Is it just me, or does **Scott Norton** look like he is absolutely miserable with his life as a wrestler?

- Now that **Gillberg** has been released by the WWF, are you waiting as anxiously as I am for an announcement about a tournament to declare a new light heavyweight champion?

- How long will it be before **Billy Gunn** realizes that he needs **DeGeneration X** more than DX ever needed him?

- How come **Spike Dudley** can beat any giant ECW puts across the ring from him but can't beat any of ECW's elite stars?

- What good options do **Public Enemy** have left?

- What makes that people's elbow delivered by **The Rock** so much more devastating than any other elbowdrop?

- Did you find it as difficult to watch **The Undertaker** break a baseball bat over the head of "**Big Show**" **Paul Wight** at the April 27 taping of *Raw Is War* as I did?

- Will we ever see a pinfall take place during one of those mid-match commercial breaks on *Nitro*?

- Why hasn't **Jerry Lawler** brought the beautiful **Stacy Carter** to the WWF?

- Does anyone know whose side anyone in WCW is on?

- Are you sick of seeing wrestlers on mainstream TV shows at this point?

- Are **Gerald Brisco** and **Pat Patterson** eligible for Most Popular Wrestler of the Year balloting this year? How about the "*PWI 500*"? Come on—at least Comeback of the Year!

- Would **The Godfather's** women still hang around with

him if he went back to being **Papa Shango** and casting spells on people he didn't like?

- Does **The Undertaker** still have that old urn of his stashed away somewhere ... and if so, does it still give him magical powers?

- Why did it take the good folks at WCW the better part of four months to decide that the best name for **Torrie Wilson**—**David Flair's** "girlfriend"—would be her real name, **Torrie Wilson**?

- Did you find it a little bit funny when **Eric Bischoff** said on *Nitro* on May 17 that the ratings war had gotten a little more competitive than he had anticipated? When was the last time the Monday night ratings war was competitive?

- I know it's been pointed out in this magazine before, but can all you wrestlers in ECW, WCW, and any other federation that ends with a "W" please get this straight once and for all: When you're doing an interview, remember that you don't work for *the* Extreme Championship Wrestling or *the* World Championship Wrestling. Therefore, logic dictates that you don't work for *the* ECW or *the* WCW. It's just ECW and WCW. Got it? If not, just get in touch with me here at the *PWI* and I'll be happy to explain it in more detail.



The Godfather's ladies love him now, sure, but if he ever reverted back to one of his old personae—say, **Papa Shango**—would they still be so affectionate?

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July 1984: Jimmy Valiant's Message To The Fans: "It's Time For You To Boogie Woogie!" Centerfold: Paul Ellering. Plus: Fabulous Ones-Rock 'n' Rolls, Junkyard Dog, Sheik Al-Kaissie, Barry Windham.

February 1985: AWA World Champion Rick Martel: Five Steps To Greatness. Centerfold: Magnum T.A. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Blanchard-Rhodes, Bob Backlund, Paul Ellering.

April 1985: Jimmy Snuka: "I Want Piper!"—Even If It Kills The Tonga Kid. Centerfold: Ronnie Garvin. Plus: Flair-Rhodes, Terry Gordy, Jim Garvin, Road Warriors.

September 1985: Magnum T.A.: He's Got Millions Of Fans, But He's The Loneliest Man In Wrestling. Centerfold: Junkyard Dog. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Von Erich-Adams, Hacksaw Duggan.

June 1987: Magnum T.A.'s Message To The Fans: "Thank You For Your Prayers." Centerfold: Hulk Hogan. Plus: Martel & Zenk, Hayes & Gordy, Scott Hall, Road Warriors.

October 1987: Dump The Horsemen, Flair—A True Champion Stands On His Own. Centerfold: Ted DiBiase. Plus: Hogan-Steamboat, Steve Williams, NWA & WWF.

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June 1988: Is The End Near For Hulk Hogan? Centerfold: Tully Blanchard. Plus: Midnight Rockers-Kelly & Kiniski, Al Perez, Dusty Rhodes, Magnificent Muraco.

August 1988: Macho Madness—The Torch Is Passed. Centerfold: Al Perez. Plus: Kerry Von Erich, Bruno Sammartino, Luger & Windham, Eddie Gilbert.

November 1988: He's Back! But Is Savage's Belt Beyond Hulk's Reach? Centerfold: Midnight Express. Plus: Madusa-Hyatt, Rock 'n' Rolls, Dusty Rhodes, Warlord & Barbarian-Ax & Smash, Kevin Von Erich & Jessica McClure.

December 1988: The Four Horsemen's Revolving Door—Who's The Next To Go? Centerfold: Hacksaw Duggan. Plus: Jerry Lawler, Precious, Bam Bam Bigelow, Bruiser Brody, Intercontinental tag title.

June 1989: Hogan vs. Savage—WrestleMania V Preview. Centerfold: Rick Steamboat. Plus: Dustin Rhodes, Road Warriors, Larry Zbyszko, Rock 'n' Rolls-British Bulldogs.

July 1989: Rick Steamboat: "I'm Not A Real Champ Till I Beat Luger & Sting." Centerfold: Roddy Piper. Plus:

Paul E. Dangerously, John Studd, Dallas Page.

August 1989: Super Sunday—Hulkamania Reborn! Ultimate Warrior Dethroned! NWA Stunner! Centerfold: Lex Luger. Plus: Steamboat-Flair, Dusty Rhodes.

October 1989: Muscle-For-Muscle, Who's More Awesome—Luger Or Hogan? Centerfold: Rick Rude. Plus: Sting, Jimmy Snuka, Lawler-Perez, Dallas Page.

November 1989: Dusty Rhodes—Alone And In Danger. Centerfold: Ric Flair. Plus: Luger-Steamboat, Ultimate Warrior, Robert Fuller, Rick Steiner.

January 1990: Warrior's Next Victim: Hulk Hogan? Centerfold: Sid Vicious. Plus: Kerry Von Erich, Jim Ross, Midnight Express.

February 1990: Luger's Holiday Gift For Flair: Has The "Total Package" Wrapped Up The NWA Title? Centerfold: Bret Hart. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Woman, Hennig-Beefcake, Toni Adams.

March 1990 (Special Issue): 1989—The Year In Wrestling. 1989 In Review, Achievement '89 awards, Unofficial/Official awards, Predictions for 1990.

April 1990: PWI Wrestler Of The Decade: Why Lex Luger Couldn't Rulin Ric Flair's Greatest Day. Centerfold: Dusty Rhodes. Plus: Rockers, Hogan-Hennig, Jerry Lawler.

May 1990: Hulk Hogan: Primed And Ready For WrestleMania VI. Centerfold: Great Muta. Plus: Piper-Rude, Eric Embry, Rock 'n' Rolls, Sid Vicious, pain.

June 1990: Hogan vs. Warrior: Why WrestleMania VI

Warrior, Road Warriors.

November 1990: Sting Wins The NWA World Title! "If This Is A Dream, Don't Wake Me." Centerfold: Road Warriors. Plus: Rude-Warrior, Ric Flair, Funk-Hansen, muscle and power.

February 1991: WrestleMania VII Contest. Centerfold: 1991 calendar. Plus: Sid Vicious, DiBiase-Rhodes, Scott Steiner, Power & Glory, Terry Funk.

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May 1991: WrestleMania VII Shocker! Who Is Secretly Plotting To Destroy Hulk Hogan Before March 24? Centerfold: Arn Anderson. Plus: Rick Rude, Flair-Sting, Lou Tesh, Rick Steamboat.

June 1991: Hulk Hogan: America's Hero. Centerfold: Hacksaw Duggan. Plus: Cactus Jack, Ric Flair, Nasty Boys, Steiners, Simmons-Reed.

July 1991: The War Is Over! Hulk Hogan Liberates The WWF Belt From Sgt. Slaughter! Centerfold: Brian Pillman. Plus: Horsemen, Lex Luger, Eric Embry, Demolition.

August 1991 (Special Issue): Supercards '91. Centerfold: Hulk Hogan. Plus: WrestleMania VII, WCW-New Japan, Ultimate Warrior, Owen Hart, Koloff-Luger.

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May 1992: Revitalized In Tokyo: Hulk Hogan Is Super-Psyched For WrestleMania VIII! Centerfold: Rick Rude. Plus: Sting & Muta-Steiners, Jarrett & Fuller, Lightning Kid, Randy Savage, intimidation.

June 1992: Exclusive PWI Interview: Roddy Piper Speaks Out! Centerfold: Dustin Rhodes. Plus: Dangerously-Sting, Abdullah-Cactus, Sid Justice, Randy Savage.

July 1992: The Best Of The Best—The Masters Of Their Craft. Centerfold: Randy Savage. Plus: Liger-Pillman, Jim Neidhart, U.S.-Japan, Ric Flair.

September 1992: Savage vs. Sting: Why It Isn't That Unlikely. Centerfold: Nikita Koloff. Plus: Steiners, Barry Windham, Sid Justice, Hodge & Weston, Shawn Michaels.

October 1992: The Hatred Still Runs Deep: Ultimate Warrior vs. Randy Savage—They'll Settle Up At SummerSlam! Centerfold: Cactus Jack. Plus: Steve Williams, Tom Zenk, WWF title controversy, fire match, Eric Embry.

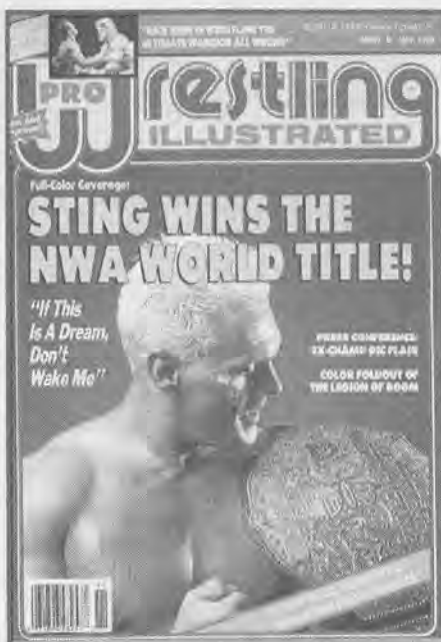
November 1992: The British Bulldog: Hounding The Hitman. Centerfold: Ultimate Warrior. Plus: Honky Tonk Man, Steiners, Undertaker, Madusa, perfect wrestler.

January 1993: New WWF World Champion Ric Flair: His SummerSlam Plan Works To Perfection. Centerfold: Jeff Jarrett. Plus: Ron Simmons, Kerry Von Erich, Rude-Roberts-Steamboat.

February 1993: No One Can Cut Down Razor Ramon. Centerfold: Curt Hennig. Plus: Jake Roberts, Pillman-Dustin, Ric Flair-Road Warriors, Rick Rude, Snuka-Muraco.

April 1993: The Steiners: Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Wrestling's Most Awesome Tag Team. Centerfold: Barry Windham. Plus: Bob Backlund, Sting-Muta, Hawk & Sasaki, Davey Boy Smith.

May 1993: WrestleMania Without Hulk Hogan?



Won't Settle This Feud. Centerfold: Sting. Plus: Nikita Koloff, Cornette-Rock 'n' Rolls, Rhodes-Savage, Anderson-Sawyer, boxers vs. wrestlers.

July 1990: The Maturing Of Lex Luger: The "Total Package" Becomes The People's Choice. Centerfold: Rick Martel. Plus: Skyscrapers, Bobby Heenan, Mr. Saito, referees.

September 1990: The Hulkster's Wrath: 7,000 Miles To Violent Redemption. Centerfold: The Steiners. Plus: Jeff Jarrett, Sting, Destruction Crew, Four Horsemen, Curt Hennig.

October 1990: Sting's Painful Lesson: You'll Have No Friends At The Top. Centerfold: Brutus Beefcake. Plus: Orndorff-Blanchard, Tugboat, Teddy Long, Ultimate

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May 1996: Un-Natural! The WWF Has Finally Gone Too Far! Centerfold: Public Enemy. Plus: Jeff Jarrett, Dreamer-Raven, Dan Severn, Ric Flair, Giant.

July 1996: Is Shawn Michaels Leaving The WWF? Centerfold: Lex Luger. Plus: Goldust, Hulk Hogan, Giant, Ric Flair.

October 1996: Peaking Too Soon: Will The Giant Be Ruined By His Own Success? Centerfold: Goldust. Plus: Big Van Vader, Ric Flair, Bulldog, Lex Luger.

November 1996: Giant-Michaels: The War To End All Wars. Centerfold: Dreamer, Beulah, Kimona. Plus: Sunny, Bret Hart, World Peace Festival, Yoshi Kwan.

December 1996: The Truth Hurts: Hulk Hogan Is Right! Centerfold: Steve Austin. Plus: Undertaker-Bearer-Mankind, Sting, Ahmed Johnson, Col. Parker.

Winter 1996 (Special Issue): PWI 500. Centerfold: Shawn Michaels.

January 1997: The NWO's Confidential Dream Roster. Centerfold: Rey Mysterio Jr. Plus: Marc Mero, Lord Steven Regal, Shawn Michaels, PG-13.

February 1997: Mr. Perfect: "Shawn Michaels Stole My Life." Centerfold: "Psycho" Sid. Plus: Kroat & Furnas, Vince McMahon, Randy Savage, New Razor & New Diesel.

April 1997: How Winning The Title Saved Psycho Sid's Sanity. Centerfold: Hulk Hogan. Plus: Rocky Maivia, Jeff Jarrett, Unofficial/Officials, Chris Jericho.

May 1997: March Madness. Centerfold: Benoit & Woman. Plus: Akira Hokuto, Roddy Piper, Goldust, Giant.

July 1997: Steve Austin: Stone-Cold And Uncensored. Centerfold: Dallas Page. Plus: Rocky Maivia, Road Warriors, Nick Patrick, Eliminators.

December 1997: Ken Shamrock's Deadly Climb To The Top. Centerfold: Savage & Elizabeth. Plus: Perry Saturn, WWF light heavys, NWO & Bischoff, Eddy Guerrero.

January 1998: Bagwell, Wright, & Jericho—The Real

New World Order. Centerfold: Dude Love. Plus: The Giant, Shane Douglas, Shawn Michaels, Ahmed Johnson. February 1998: Sting vs. Hogan—The Match Of The

Wrestling. 1997 In Review, Achievement '97 awards, Unofficial/Official awards, Predictions for 1998.

April 1998: The DeGeneration X Debate: Will It Save Or Ruin The WWF? Centerfold: Ken Shamrock. Plus: Bret Hart, Undertaker-Kane, Melanie Pillman.

May 1998: Starrcade Scandal! We Hate To Say It ... But Give The Belt Back To Hogan. Centerfold: Ric Flair. Plus: Mero & Sable, Taz, Taka Michinoku.

June 1998 (Special Issue): The 1998 PWI Poll. Centerfold: Steve Austin. Plus: Sabu, Lex Luger, Sting, Rocky Maivia, Bill Goldberg.

July 1998: WWF vs. WCW: Which Is Better? Centerfold: Rocky Maivia. Plus: DDP-Benoit, Bill Goldberg, Ahmed Johnson.

August 1998 (Special Issue): Supercards '98: WCW SuperBrawl, WWF WrestleMania XIV, ECW Living Dangerously. Centerfold: Scott Hall vs. Rick Steiner. Plus: Booker T, Cactus & Chainsaw.

September 1998: Austin On Her Mind: Can Chyna Succeed Where Michaels And Hunter Failed? Centerfold: Bill Goldberg. Plus: Booker-Jericho, Al Snow, Hollywood Hogan, Undertaker.

October 1998: Bret Screws Bret, Part II. Centerfold: Hunter Hearst Helmsley. Plus: Jim Ross, Marcus Bagwell, WWF controversy, FBI.

Holiday 1998 (Special Issue): PWI 500. Eighth Annual Special.

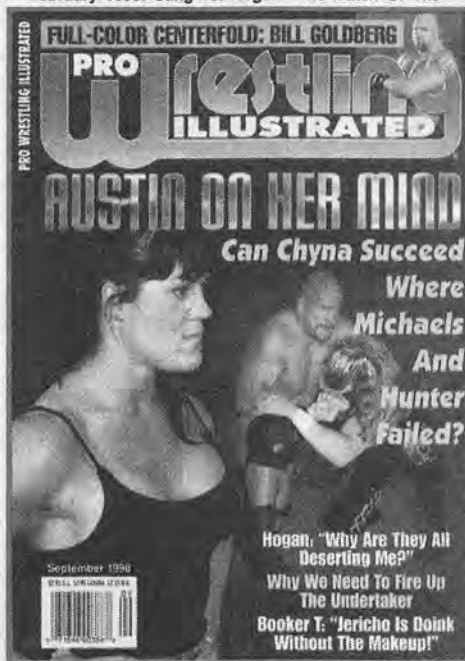
January 1999: No Evil! Can Today's Fans Accept The Warrior's Creed? Centerfold: Chyna. Plus: Sting, Bill Goldberg, Summerslam.

February 1999: The 50 Most Beautiful People In Wrestling! Centerfold: The Nitro Girls.

March 1999 (Special Issue): 1998—The Year In Wrestling. 1998 In Review, Achievement '98 awards, Unofficial/Official awards, Predictions for 1999.

April 1999: The Crock! The Title Change That Screwed The World! Centerfold: Chris Jericho. Plus: Bill Goldberg, Tommy Dreamer, Booker T, more Unofficial/Officials.

May 1999: Who Holds The Key To WrestleMania XV? Centerfold: Konnan. Plus: Mark Henry, Sting-Nash, Bill Alfonso, Brian Hildebrand.



Century! Centerfold: Hogan vs. Sting fight poster. Plus: 16-page Starrcade preview, Perry Saturn, Dude Love.

March 1998 (Special Issue): 1997—The Year In

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In case of sellout, indicate two substitute choices: _____

off the top

by Brandi Mankiewicz

(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of Brandi Mankiewicz herself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)

AREN'T WRESTLING FANS funny? When brothers violently split and begin to feud, the masses long for that tearful, heart-warming reunion.

When Owen Hart turned against brother Bret, fans decried the move and prayed for the day when Owen would see the light. Ironically, it was Bret who was drawn to that light, joined his brother, and adopted his philosophy.

Recently we saw something similar. Just last year, Scott Steiner betrayed Rick Steiner. The gnashing of fan teeth was audible as the Steiner loyalists begged for a quick, peaceful reunion. Well, they got one when Rick finally returned to his rulebreaking roots and to the side of his brother—which is precisely where he belonged in the first place.

Reunions like this one bring tears to my eyes. Sadly, most wrestling fans cannot appreciate the beauty of one brother corrupting another. It gives me a warm and fuzzy feeling all over my beautiful body.

I don't need siblings to corrupt me, for I am your champion.

Dear Brandi:

I am tired of you insulting Sting. Sting is one of the few legends that made it by being a good wrestler. He has it all: strength, submission holds, and the ability to come off the top rope. He is not like Steve Austin and The Rock. Without their personality, they would be nobody. Sting can be silent and still be the man.

DYLAN SMITH
Garland, TX

Dylan:

Actually, Stink's popularity increased when he closed his yap and hung out in the rafters rather than the ring. But that is a reflection of the fans' mentality. I insult Sting because he is such an easy target. Wrestlers get betrayed all the time, yet Sting's reaction was to become a sullen, brooding mime. I don't recall any other time in wrestling history when a wrestler lost a buddy, then grew his hair out and painted his face white. He needs to pull the pacifier out

If you wish to contribute to Brandi's mailbag, send your letters to:

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OffTheTopRope
@yahoo.com

once and for all and end this bizarre pout-fest.

Brandi:

I think the WWF is as low as it can get. And WCW isn't far behind. When will they learn that foul language and nudity belong in R-rated movies and not in wrestling? What ever happened to just getting in the ring and going at it? Now there are nothing but interviews and maybe eight matches in a three-hour show.

DANIEL L. OAKES
dlosoldier@netscape.net

Daniel:

Save the righteous indignation and look at the numbers. Fact: Since the WWF implemented an edgier style, it has spanked Nitro more often than a dominatrix ... well, you get the picture. The ratings numbers it is posting



Sting, Sting, Sting, what bad things can I say about you that I haven't said before? Let me think a minute. This is a tough one. Give me a month and maybe I'll be able to come up with something.



Maybe what Debra does on *Raw* every Monday night doesn't qualify as wrestling, but it does draw great ratings. Why would the WWF want to drastically change its approach now?

are staggering. In fact, on the night in May when *Raw* aired unopposed, it did an 8.1. Do you know what that means? That means that more than six million people say you're wrong, Danny Boy. Just getting in the ring and "going at it" just doesn't cut it anymore. The only thing it gets you is low ratings and cancellation threats.

Dear Queen Brandi:

I am a huge and loyal fan of the greatest wrestler of all-time: Hunter Hearst Helmsley. Shane O'Mac proved to the world that he is the true owner of the WWF and leader of Team Corporate because he recruited "Triple-H" for The Corporation. What's your opinion about Hunter going Corporate?

ALVIN ADRIANO
hhhrulz04@excite.com

Alvin ... Alvin ... Alvin:

There were no other options for "Triple-H." As leader of De-Generation X, he was spinning his wheels and receiving precious few title shots. What choice did he have after Chyna left him for Team Corporate? If he wanted to improve his prospects for personal and professional happiness, he had to give in and do the smart thing. Now, instead of spitting bottled water and doing bad impressions of bad ring announcers, Helmsley is wrestling in main event matches, while his former cohorts are stuck in the middle of the card. Not to be Jeffersonian, but he's movin' on up.

Brandi:

Well, first let me just point out that I am the biggest fan of Shawn Michaels! I love him. In my mind, he is the best wrestler in the sport right now. If you are a WWF fan, you should like him or at least show him respect. Shawn Michaels is one of the best wrestlers of all-time, if not the best. So when you put in your letters that you hate Shawn Michaels, or that HBK sucks, or Shawn doesn't wrestle, think before, 'cause Shawn Michaels

has done a lot for this sport. I will always stick with him, even now that he's the WWF commissioner. Thank you for your time.

KEVIN PIAZZA
shawnm88@hotmail.com

Kevin:

No, thank you for enlightening me. I had no idea that the yawning commish had such a passionate following. We should show him respect. Let's set aside all those times he walked away from his duties as champion after dedicating his wins to the fans. Let's forget the smile hunts that he embarked on for months. You're right. I'm wrong. Shawn is the best. He's the best at hogging the spotlight when it clearly is not his anymore.

Dear Brandi:

I have been a wrestling fan all of my life, and it has bothered me that Bret Hart has not received one WCW World title shot since arriving in the federation. How could WCW screw such a talented athlete?

MATT KNUEVEN
mrknueven@hotmail.com

Matt:

WCW's not screwing with anyone.

Frankly, Bret Hart is not as concerned with a WCW World title shot as he is with whining about the state of affairs in pro wrestling. Don't get me wrong. I'm behind him on his current campaign against Goldberg, but he's developing a serious impulse control problem. He has certainly developed a more sadistic edge, and that is a step in the right direction for the "Hitman." Targeting Goldberg was a nice start, but quitting was not exactly sound strategy. Fear not. Hart will get his shot. He just needs to chuck that chip on his shoulder. □



Bret Hart sure likes to talk ... and complain ... and whine. I admire him for targeting that fraud Goldberg, but I've heard enough from him recently.

KREW-CUTS

By Frank Krewda

Who, what, when, where, and why? While most pay-per-view events provide answers to the many questions on the minds of the fans, Slamboree raised more questions.

Why did referee **Johnny Boone** choose to recognize **Raven** pinning **Billy Kidman** and not **Saturn** tapping out to **Dean Malenko's** Texas cloverleaf in the three-way tag team

title match?

Is the NWO black and white some kind of clandestine organization for delinquent chefs? Why else would **Konnan** ask the members of that clique to toss salads and peel potatoes before his match with **Stevie Ray**?

What happened to all those empty Surge bottles that end up in **Bam Bam Bigelow's** trash bin prior to his hard-

core matches with **Hak** on *Nitro*? Isn't **Brian Knobs** hardcore enough to get hit with an official product? Werner ladders and Farberware cookie sheets would make great sponsors.

Where was **Stevie Ray's** slapjack when **Booker T** really needed it? For weeks, **Stevie** was suckering guys like **Dave "Fit" Finlay** and **Meng** for no reason. But with both **Steiner** brothers beating up on his brother, **Stevie** couldn't be found.

Rick Steiner should be entered into *The Guinness Book Of World Records* as the world's dumbest wrestler, or at least the shortest memory. What makes him think he can

trust his brother this time?

Who or what gave **Eric Bischoff** the authority to reverse **Ric Flair's** victory over **Roddy Piper** or **Dallas Page's** win over **Kevin Nash**? The last time I checked, **Bischoff** was out of a job.

Why did **Tony Schiavone** continually refer to the **Goldberg vs. Sting** bout as "the match we've all been waiting for"? Haven't these guys wrestled at least a dozen times already?

Why does **Randy Savage** continue to interfere on behalf of **Page**? Will he continue to do so now that **Page** is no longer the champ?

... And why was **Gorgeous George** wearing so much clothing?

Ante-bellum. At the height of **WCW's** popularity, **Eric Bischoff** said that the Monday night ratings wars weren't fun anymore because they were no longer competitive. I have to agree with "Easy-E" on that one. It sure is dull watching *Nitro* get drubbed in the ratings every week while *Raw* seemingly sets viewership records every Monday night. On May 10, *Raw* scored a whopping 8.1 composite rating, with an incredible 9.2 for the six-man tag team match overrun. The **WWF** was unopposed for this show, as *Nitro* was pre-empted for the **NBA** playoffs, but head-to-head, professional wrestling squashed professional basketball, which drew a meager 1.4 rating. May I be the first to say, "The war is over"?

Shut up! Another time-honored wrestling tradition fell by the wayside on May 8 at the **ECW Arena** in South Philly: **Sign Guy Dudley** spoke.

For those of you unfamiliar with **ECW** or **Sign Guy Dudley**, the man doesn't speak. Instead, he communicates his feelings by writing them on signs.

SGD broke his silence after **Axl Rotten** and **Mahoney** grabbed the house mike and demanded a shot at **Buh Buh Ray** and **D-Von Dudley's** tag team title (actually, it happened about two hours before the card, when **Sign Guy** told me not to use the men's room because the toilet was backed up). **Sign Guy** came to the ring and informed the chal-



Gorgeous George was dressed conservatively for her debut match against **Charles Robinson** at Slamboree. Based on her overexposure on *Nitro*, **Frank Krewda** thinks she was a bit overdressed for the occasion.



Sign Guy Dudley hadn't spoken in three years, but Mahoney couldn't bear the sound of his voice when SGD piped up at a recent ECW card. This chair shot sent Dudley back to Office Max for some more paint and posterboard.

lengers that they wouldn't be getting their *blankity-blanking* title shot tonight, and they would have to wait for the *blankity-blank* pay-per-view on May 16.

No sooner were the words out of his mouth when Mahoney started bouncing chairs off SGD's head.

Next time, Mr. Dudley should choose his words more carefully.

Is he meshugana? "Be a man, Goldberg! This is your chance to see how bad you really are!" These are the words of the Grande Wrestling Alliance's "**Jewish Bomber**" **Damon Feldman**. Feldman, a former professional boxer (9-0, 4 kayos) has been circulating a press release in the Philadelphia area promoting "The Ultimate Jewish Showdown" between himself and the former WCW World champion. Here's what Feldman has in mind: a three-round bout in which the participants box one round, wrestle the second round, and engage in no-holds-barred warfare in the final round.

Feldman, the GWA boxer vs. wrestler champ and International No Holds Barred Fighting Federation champion, challenged **Mike Tyson** and **The Sandman** (Hak) in the past.

"Tyson wasn't man enough, The Sandman was a chump, and Goldberg is about to be stopped," said Feldman. "Is he man enough to accept my challenge?"

Whether Goldberg is man enough to meet Feldman's challenge is a moot point because WCW would most likely not let Goldberg participate in a UFC-style match, even though he's made his interest in shootfighting known. There were even rumors of WCW bringing in the UFO's **Mark Coleman** to face Goldberg at one point, but an agreement between the two parties couldn't be reached.

GWA promoter **Izzy Aviles** doesn't expect WCW or Goldberg to take up Feldman's offer. "But if they do," Aviles explained, "we would have it as a charity event to benefit Jewish organizations all along the East Coast."

Hostile takeover. There's a movement afoot in the North Carolina-based AIWF to prove that it is the most hardcore organization in the world today. Of course, proving that claim requires AIWF competitors to perpetrate ghastly acts of violence upon each other—and fire has become the weapon of choice.

The biggest firebug has been heavyweight and tag team champ **Rick**

Deezel, who has made a postmatch ritual of setting his opponents ablaze. On May 1, Deezel successfully defended his title against **Robbie Evil**. But when Deezel said he wanted to find out what Evil was made of, he must have been referring to the challenger's chemical composition, because moments after the match, Evil went up like a pile of kindling. He was quickly extinguished, but not before he suffered burns on his hands, face, chest, and torso.

One week later, **Don Carson** was given the same treatment, only Carson had the misfortune of being run over by Deezel's truck in a parking lot brawl before being lit up. Much to his chagrin, Carson has become the pyromaniacs' target of choice in the AIWF. He's been burned several times by Deezel and other competitors.

"If Carson can't take it, maybe he should go to ECW with the rest of the wusses," Deezel said. "AIWF is the king of hardcore. We prove it by having the bloodiest matches and most violent feuds. ECW sold out, so now we're showing everybody how hardcore's done."

B-Sharpe. Good news here. Former WWF star **Larry Sharpe**, who was diagnosed with leukemia several months ago, has learned that his cancer is in complete remission. "I've finished my chemotherapy and I feel great," Sharpe told me. "But I still have to take medicine."

"I want to thank all my fans, past and present, for the support they've given me throughout my illness. Every letter, card, and phone call means the world to me."

Incidentally, Sharpe's training facility, The Monster Factory, formerly of Clementon, New Jersey, moved down the road to Mantua, New Jersey, and reopened on May 29. □

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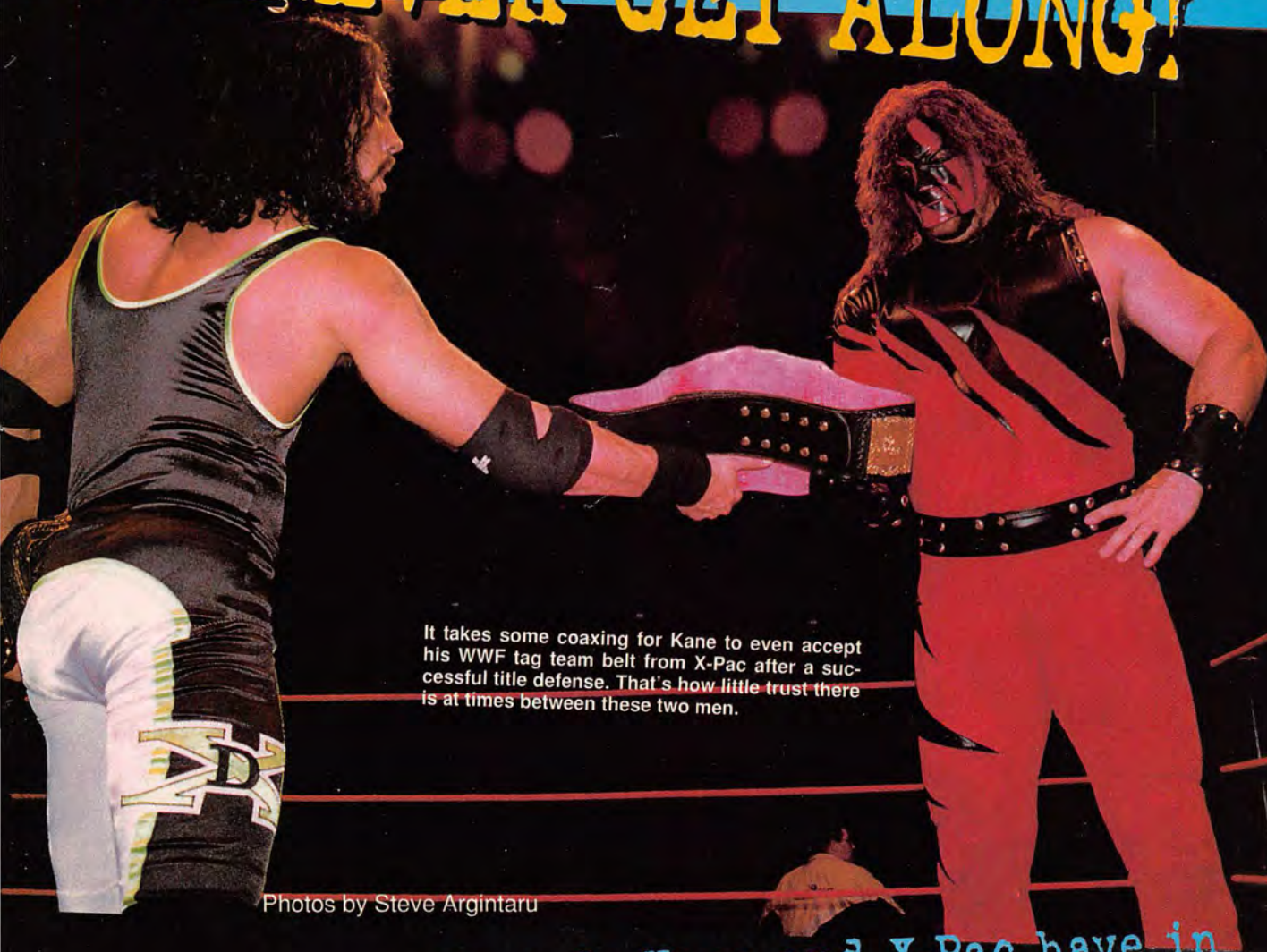


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MISERY HATES COMPANY: WHY X-PAC AND KANE CAN NEVER GET ALONG!



It takes some coaxing for Kane to even accept his WWF tag team belt from X-Pac after a successful title defense. That's how little trust there is at times between these two men.

Photos by Steve Argintaru

By Bryan Ethier

IT WAS PITIFUL, really, watching the ex-90-pound string bean offering his friendship to a psychotic giant pariah. Two long-time losers, the geeks who always got ridiculed at the beach for being too dorky, too thin, or too unlikable. But now the skinny wimp had

What do Kane and X-Pac have in common? They've spent much of their careers being rejected by their colleagues. But is this common bond enough to keep this unlikely tag team together?

developed into a bruising man who took no malarkey from any big brute. And he now bravely extended his hand to one of the biggest lunkheads in the WWF world.

"Come with us, Kane. Be a part of the De-Generation X world," thundered X-Pac to the seven-foot demon standing before him. "You don't have to be pushed around by Vince McMahon anymore. You don't have to do his crap like these other Corporate Team jerks. You can ride with the best there is: DeGeneration X. We'll show you what it means to be a champion."

X-Pac was clad in his slick black wrestling garb, his sweat-soaked hair was tossed back, and his furry beard was poking toward the arena ceiling, which was about where the mighty Kane's head loomed.

"Come on—the future is yours," said X-Pac. He extended his hand toward Kane; Kane considered it and took one step forward. Suddenly, Vince McMahon appeared at the top of the rampway. He said nothing, but every wrestler and fan in the arena felt his presence. So did Kane. He turned his head from X-Pac to McMahon, then back to X-Pac. Suddenly, he pounced upon X-Pac like a mountain lion on a squirrel. X-Pac slithered and twisted like that doomed tiny woods rodent, but to no avail. With a mighty paw, Kane lifted Pac up by the throat and held him



aloft for what seemed an eternity. Then he choke-slammed him to the mat.

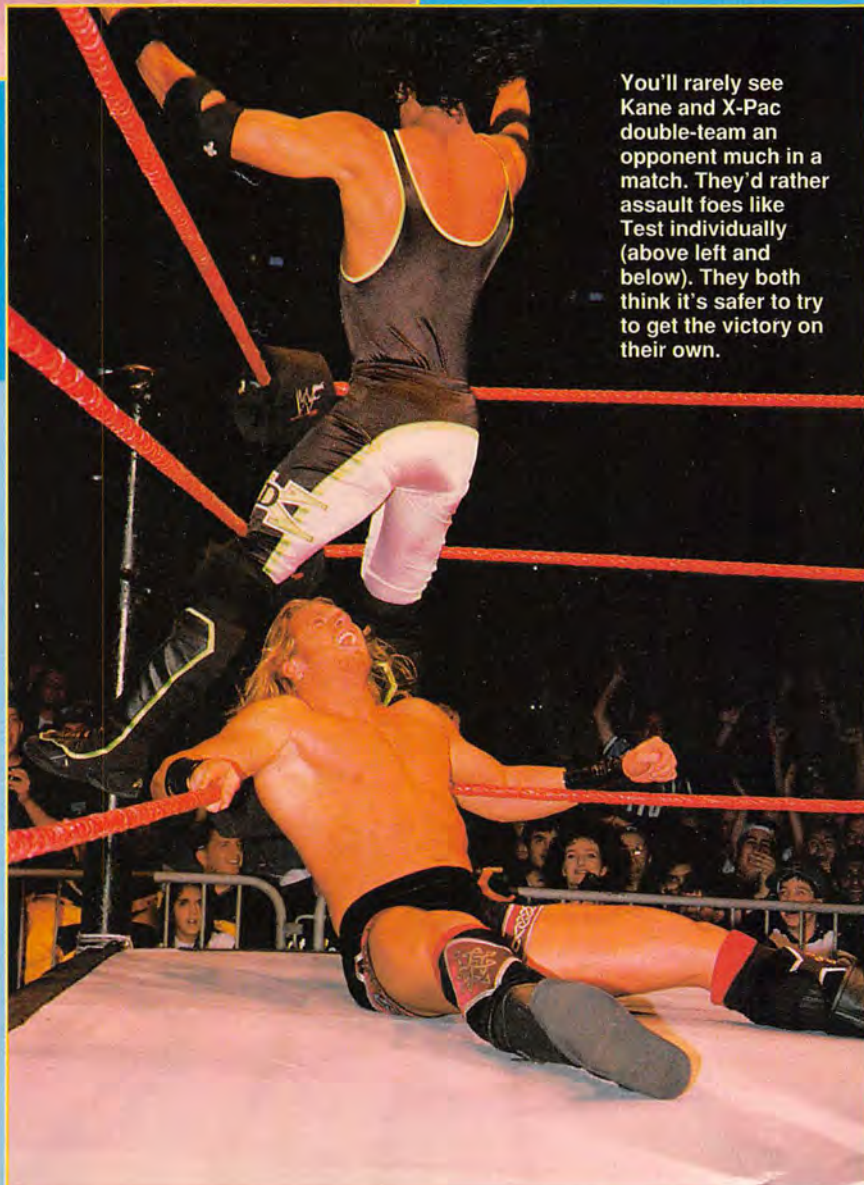
Amidst the stunned buzz of the crowd, X-Pac lay supine on the mat, his ego bruised along with his tailbone.

I thought I had him, he thought. I really thought I had him going along with our way of thinking.

But X-Pac was dead wrong; then again, who has ever been able to figure out this solitary giant whose sole barometer of psychological consistency is to be constantly enigmatic, often completely mentally unstable?

Kane has been set on fire and tied up in a straitjacket. He has forged furious battles with his half-brother, he has been the enemy of nearly everyone in the WWF.

On this day, he took instructions



You'll rarely see Kane and X-Pac double-team an opponent much in a match. They'd rather assault foes like Test individually (above left and below). They both think it's safer to try to get the victory on their own.

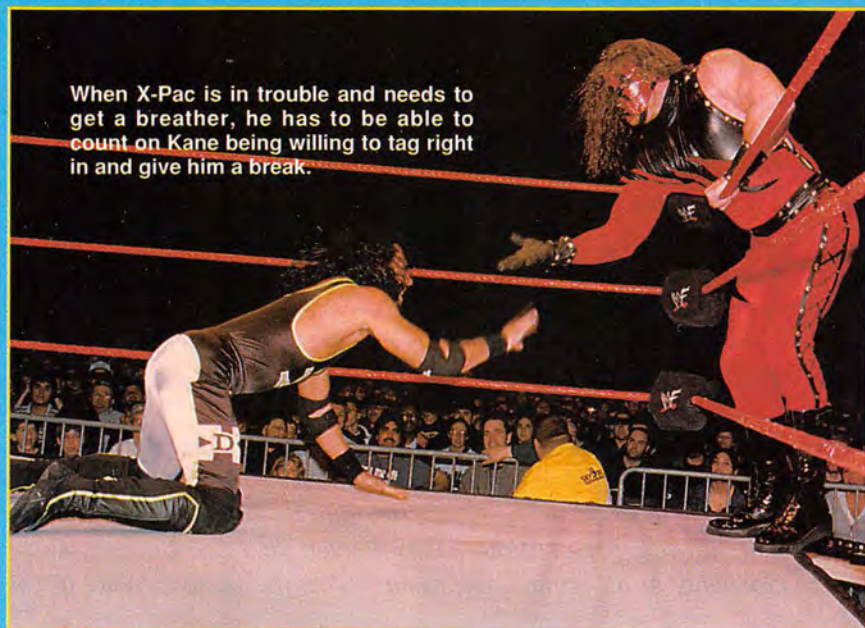
Kane is certainly capable of taking out two opponents at once, which is what he's doing against Test and Big Bossman here. But if he and X-Pac are going to remain successful, they're going to have to start working together.

from one man and one man only: his keeper, Vince McMahon.

Months have passed since the day X-Pac first extended to Kane an open invitation to join DX. On this day they were once again at opposite corners of the squared circle. A buzz of disbelief cascaded down from the top rows of the arena: Kane and X-Pac, WWF tag team champs?

The grapplers were doubtful of their newfound celebrity. X-Pac sidled over to Kane, who stood like a huge red statue against the far ropes. Pac extended his hand for the second time in a few months. Kane glanced at it, but he made no move to take it in his own baseball mitt-sized hand. Instead, he grabbed his gold belt, slung it over his shoulder, and stepped from the ring. X-Pac, his face wrinkled in curiosity, watched as his silent partner escaped into the locker room.

As X-Pac finally made his way down the rampway, WWF com-



When X-Pac is in trouble and needs to get a breather, he has to be able to count on Kane being willing to tag right in and give him a break.

mentator Michael Cole caught up with him.

"X-Pac, what do you make of this highly unusual partnership?" he asked.

X-Pac ran his hands through his sweat-soaked hair and gazed heavenward.

"Well, I guess it's not ideal, but as long as he shows up to defend the title, that's all I can ask for. We don't have to party together."

Boy, was X-Pac right. In the weeks following their tag team championship win, X-Pac and Kane lived the wrestling lives of Felix and Oscar. An odd couple? They're not even that close. It's

(Continued on page 56)



With a trail of, uh, lovely ladies behind him, The Godfather has strutted his way right to the WWF Intercontinental title! Women love a champion!

THE GODFATHER

THE GODFATHER HAS finally hit it big. Now in his 10th year in the sport, he has come upon a winning formula that is getting him noticed by WWF fans and officials alike. He is relying on his second job, so to speak.

The former background member of The Nation is now the Intercontinental champion. Formerly known as The Soultaker, Papa Shango, Kama The Supreme Fighting Machine, and Kama Mustafa, The Godfather is also a cigar-chomping, eccentrically-dressed pimp. He struts to ringside with two or three scantily clad women, usually picked up from the seedy side of town. Homegrown and unrefined—that's the way Godfather likes them.

Pimpin' may not be easy, but it certainly gets a fast rise from the crowd. He and close friend Val Venis have built their entire careers upon the premise that sex sells.

Is The Godfather's fancy bit of showmanship simply meant to offer a cheap thrill? Or does it reflect his true personality? Whichever is the case, he personifies the WWF's current lewd and crude attitude.

Now that he has snagged the I-C strap, Godfather must decide whether to be a popular sideshow or a serious competitor. Men such as Goldust, Ken Shamrock, Jesse James, and Billy Gunn are all plotting to separate The Godfather from his gold.

Associate Editor Frank Krewda, Senior Writer Harry Burkett, and Contributing Writer Liz Hunter met The Godfather at his home base: room 117 of the Jackpot Motel in Las Vegas.

LIZ HUNTER: He was supposed to be here at 7:00. Now it's going on 7:30. We would've still been sitting in that awful lobby if Godfather hadn't left that note for the front desk clerk to give us a key to the room. Do you think he forgot about us?

FRANK KREWDA: Not a chance. He called the office three times this week to see if we were coming. He even called around noon today, just before I left for the airport, to make sure we were going to make it.

“Fact is, I just loosened up. I’m the same guy I’ve always been, except I’m letting the fun-lovin’ aspect of my personality show through. That’s always been a part of me.”

HARRY BURKETT: I hope he gets here soon. I tried turning on the TV, but it only gets UHF, and even those channels are full of static. Counting cockroaches gets boring after a while. Wait a minute, I hear someone ... *(The Godfather opens the door and motions for three ladies to enter, each one wearing barely enough material to qualify as clothing.)*

THE GODFATHER: *(Puffs on fat cigar, then lowers sunglasses to stare at Hunter)* I didn't know you two guys were bringin' one of your own.

BURKETT: *(Laughs nervously)* No, Godfather, you don't understand. This is Elizabeth Hunter, a long-time contributor to *PWI*. She isn't "our lady," if that's what you think.

GODFATHER: *(Sighs)* Pimpin' ain't easy, and this is living proof. But here it goes: I've got an offer for you, something I know you two guys can't refuse. Now, you can sit here and conduct this interview, or you can enjoy a pleasurable evenin' with either of these three fine [ladies]. I've got 'em lined up for you: blonde, brunette, and even one with jet-black hair. All I ask is that you go back and write somethin' real nice about The Godfather. What you got to say to that?

KREWDA: Could you give us a minute?

HUNTER: Frank! You're not actually considering this madness, are you?

KREWDA: Well, I ...

HUNTER: What about your journalistic integrity? What about your ethics? What about your regard for the female sex? Don't give into this ... this blatant chauvinism and ... and this disgusting treatment of women! What would Stu say about you abandoning your assignment?

KREWDA: I've got a few sick days coming, Liz. I'm feeling sick to my stomach all of a sudden. Godfather, do one of these ladies know the way to a clinic?

GODFATHER: Positively. This bodacious blonde, Nicola, and this beautiful brunette, Rachel, can show you. There's a shortcut through the Rio Casino.

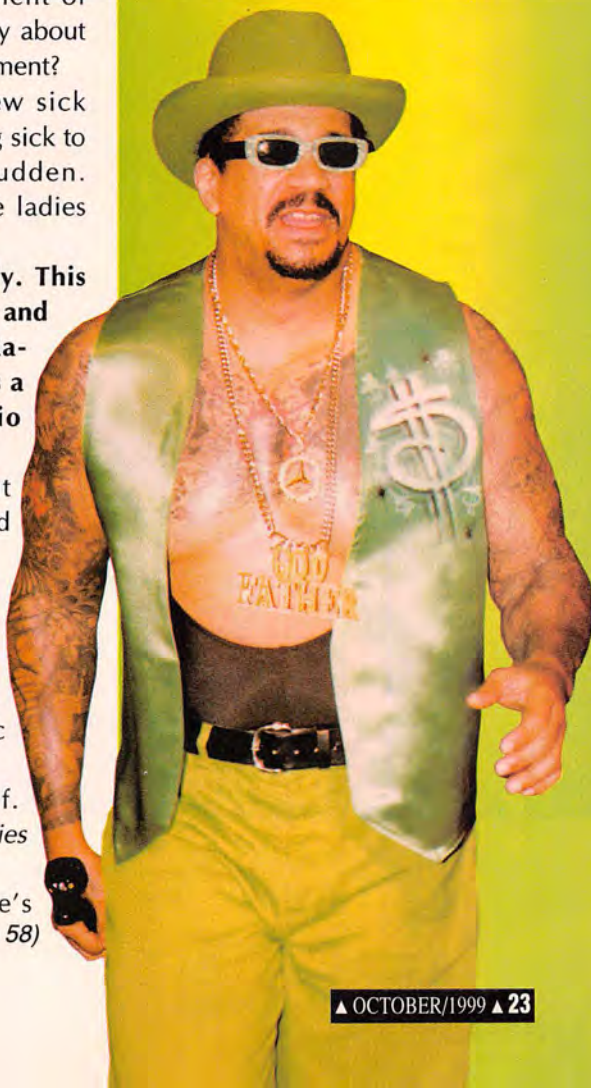
KREWDA: What about you, Harry? Do you need medical attention?

BURKETT: I'm not sure about this, Frank. Those ladies don't look very healthy to me. I think you should get them to the clinic as soon as possible. I'll pass.

KREWDA: Suit yourself. *(Krewda and two of the ladies leave the room.)*

HUNTER: At least there's
(Continued on page 58)

Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.



This isn't a story about Scott Steiner's primitive nature. It isn't about a bully who threatens announcers, abuses referees, and tortures wrestlers. In this exclusive feature, his former best friend explains ...

Buff Bagwell and Scott Steiner were the best of friends ... once. Now, Steiner has an important warning for the world about "Big Poppa Pump."



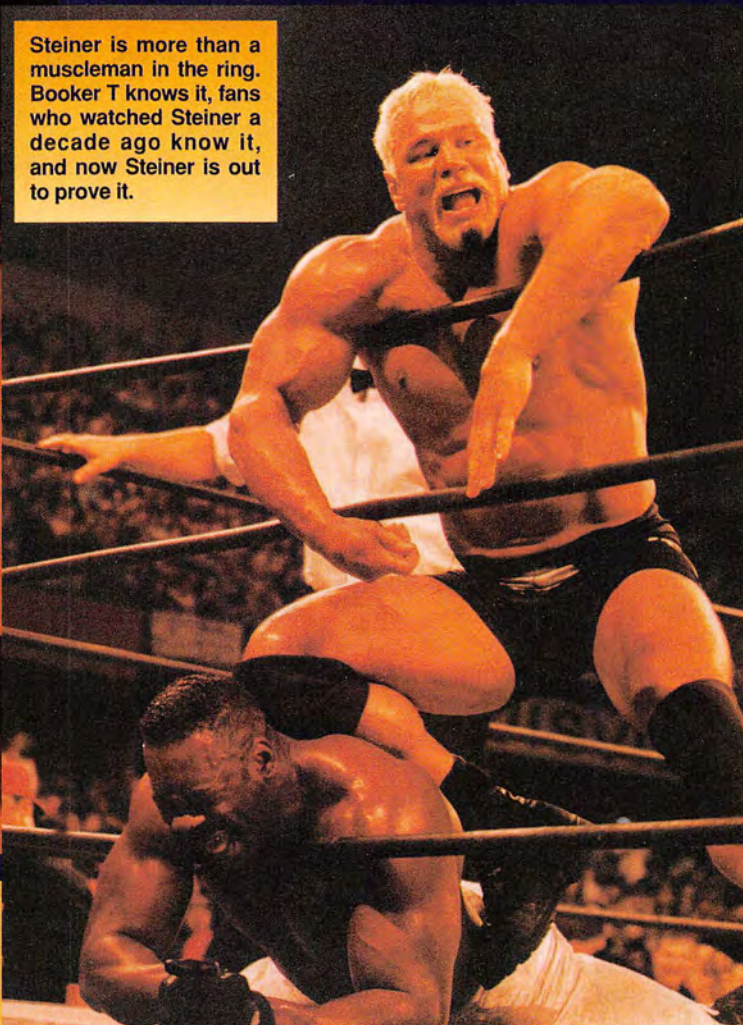
WHY THE WORLD MUST FEAR SCOTT STEINER!

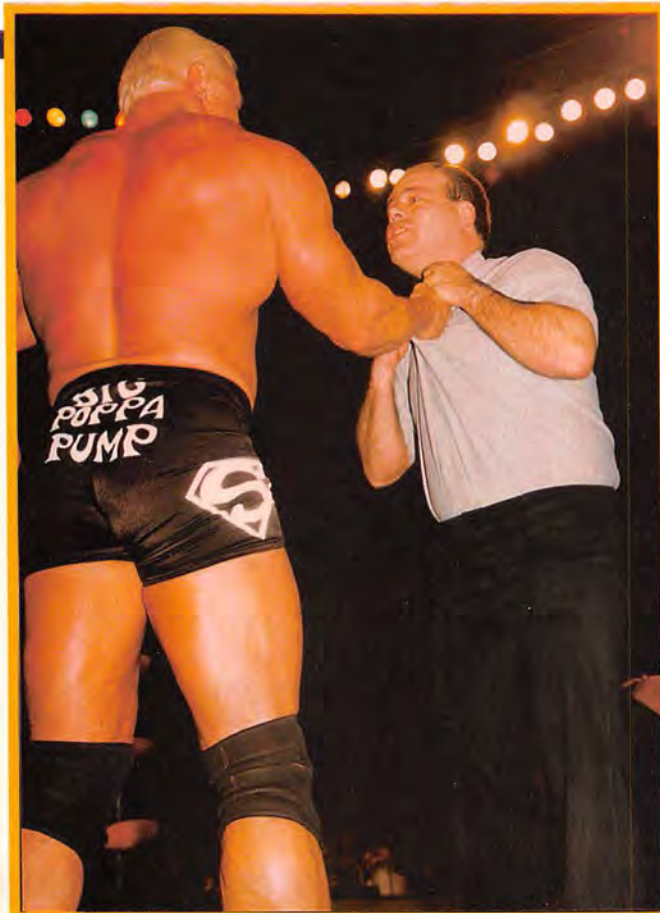
By Buff Bagwell

BET YOU saw the headline of this story and said, "Tell me something I don't know!" Well, I was his closest friend for a long time, and let me tell you: There's plenty to be afraid of—and I don't mind admitting it.

Scott Steiner was my best friend. At least I thought he was. Now he's the deadliest enemy I've ever

Steiner is more than a muscleman in the ring. Booker T knows it, fans who watched Steiner a decade ago know it, and now Steiner is out to prove it.





If roughing up a referee is what it takes to get noticed, Steiner doesn't mind doing that (left). He also doesn't mind threatening fans with chairs, either (below).



faced. Look at him from a physical standpoint. His 23-inch pythons are the biggest in wrestling. One of his legs is as wide as Rey Misterio Jr.'s entire body!

Steiner's fantastic body might make you overlook another fact: He is an absolute master in the squared circle. He's always flexing his muscles and talking about his body and, yes, part of it's because he's in love with himself. But Scotty is deviously smart. He intentionally uses his physique as a distraction. While his opponents are training to face a hulking muscleman, they forget he is a superb tactician.

Of all the things that make Steiner scary, that frightens me the most.

A lot of people say that the Scott Steiner of today isn't the Scott Steiner of yesterday. He isn't the young lion who burst onto the WCW scene in '89 and captured three World tag team titles within three years. That Scott Steiner used dropkicks, flying bodypresses, and sunset flips. That Scott

Steiner could hit you from all sides. By comparison, today's Scott Steiner seems one-dimensional.

I used to agree with that view. Whenever I tagged with "Big Poppa Pump," I resembled the young Scott Steiner more than he did. I did the dropkicks, flying bodypresses, and sunset flips. Scotty was the muscles of the team.

After I hurt my neck, I became his cornerman. I saved his butt more times than I can remember with my outside interference—or so I thought.

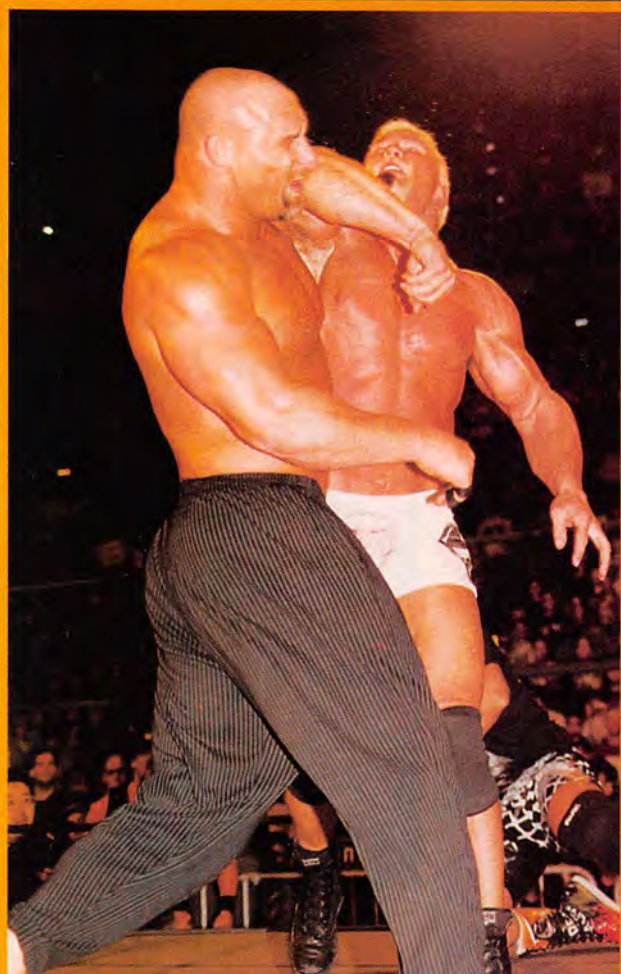
My opinion of him began to change when we started arguing. We bickered backstage a lot a few weeks before our split on TV. He started questioning my loyalty and asking why I wasn't helping him as much. Scotty had become accustomed to me smashing his opponent with a chair or sliding him a pair of brass knucks at the right moment.

He was right. I wasn't interfering

as much. During those last few weeks I was in Scotty's corner, I had started looking at him as an opponent rather than as a teammate. I imagined how I'd wrestle him. The more I watched him, the more intimidated I became.

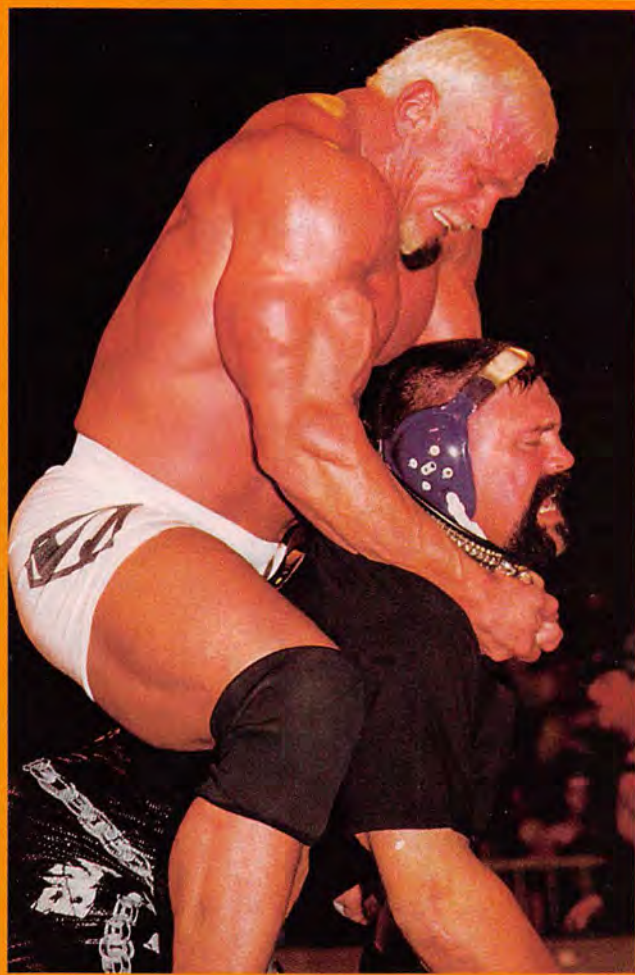
Whenever I saw sweat pouring down his face, or saw him doubled over for air, I stayed put. He would glare at me, wondering why I wasn't helping out. Then, all of a sudden, he would dive under his opponent and execute a fireman's carry, a headscissors, or even a surfboard. When Scotty was in a pinch, he would resort to those amateur moves that made him an all-American at the University of Michigan.

I realized all of us had been fooled. Scotty had us believing that he was a musclehead who could only do bodyslams, backbreakers, and, of course, the Steiner recliner. But he proved that even without "Buff Daddy" around, he could



Steiner's incredible strength makes him a significant match even for Goldberg! His formidable wrestling skills could cause problems for Goldberg, too.

Scott and his brother, Rick, were once a great team. Then they feuded for a year, and now they have reunited. But will it last? Can anyone trust Scott Steiner?



always go back to basics.

That's when I started rethinking my strategy against Steiner. He was a genetic freak, plus he could wrestle on the mat. I realized that was a tough combo. *Easy*, I thought, *I'll just go to the air if we ever wrestle. How could he ever defend himself?*

I felt pretty confident ... until Scotty defended the TV title against Booker T on *Monday Nitro* a few months ago. I thought Booker would be his toughest challenger yet, and Scotty wasn't taking him lightly, either. Scotty watched a dozen tapes of Booker before that match. He was ready.

Again, that's where the master tactician comes in. He wrestled Booker for seven minutes until he lured him into going for that ax kick

of his. Sure enough, Scotty ducked underneath it just in time. Booker fell to the mat and got on his knees. His eyes were as big as saucers. He couldn't believe what happened!

Booker finally regained the advantage a minute later, only to have Scotty reverse an Irish whip and send him into the corner. "Big Poppa Pump" climbed to the second turnbuckle. I was sure he was going to start punching Booker's head. I had seen it a dozen times.

I was wrong. Scotty stood on the top turnbuckle, and I asked myself, *What the heck is this lunatic doing?* He gave himself a bounce, landed on Booker's shoulders, and flipped him over with a Frankensteiner! I couldn't believe my eyes! Scotty hadn't used that move in ages. I thought it was

because he couldn't. Actually, it was because he chose not to.

Eventually I shoved Booker T off the top rope when he went for a Harlem hangover, and Scotty got the win. And everybody knows what happened during the rematch at *Uncensored*. I mistimed a chair-shot and cost Scotty the TV title.

Me and Scott had our public falling-out, then he went on to win the U.S. title tournament. I can't think of anyone who's come up with a really good way to beat him. He has the strength of Goldberg, the timing of Billy Kidman, and the cunning of Ric Flair. I don't think anyone else has even figured out what this man is capable of. Except me. So trust me when I tell you this about Scott Steiner:

Be afraid. Be very afraid. □

OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

CELEBRATING WRESTLING



The very first PWI cover

BACK IN 1979, a lot of wrestling fans didn't know who Hulk Hogan was. Bob Backlund was the WWF World champion. Harley Race was battling Giant Baba for the NWA World championship. Nobody had ever heard of pay-per-view wrestling. Vince McMahon Jr. was merely an announcer. Jimmy Carter was President. The Cold War was raging. And people all across America were waiting in line for gasoline.

That same year, PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED was born, and wrestling journalism was changed forever.

Wrestling has changed a lot since July 1979, when the first issue of **PWI** (cover-dated September 1979) hit newsstands. Vince McMahon Jr. is now the most powerful man in wrestling. Hulk Hogan has become Hollywood Hogan. Backlund is a politician. Race has retired. Baba recently died. The line between rulebreakers and fan favorites has become blurred. Since 1979, wrestling has gone through two boom periods.

In just a few months, we'll celebrate the 20th anniversary of **PWI** with a special issue devoted to the **PWI** years. We'd like you to be a part of it! The following poll consists of 50 questions regarding the best and worst of the **PWI** years.

The results of this survey will be printed in the Winter 1999 issue of **PWI Presents** (on sale October 19)—a magazine that will be devoted to the greatest moments and wrestlers of the **PWI** years: July 1979 to the present. We need your answers by August 10, but the sooner you get them in, the better. You can put your answers on the pages themselves, photocopies of the pages, or on separate sheets of paper. Please include your name and city of residence (as well as any comments you might have) with your answers and send them to: **PWI 20th Anniversary**, c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034.

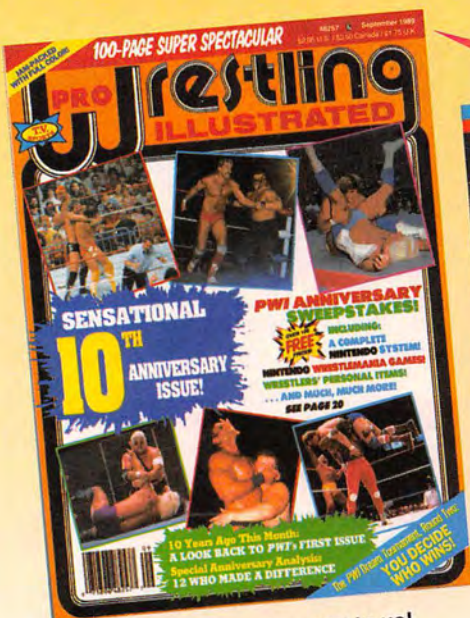
So put on your thinking caps and look back in time ... but not too far back. After all, 20 years really isn't a long time. We plan on being around for a lot longer.



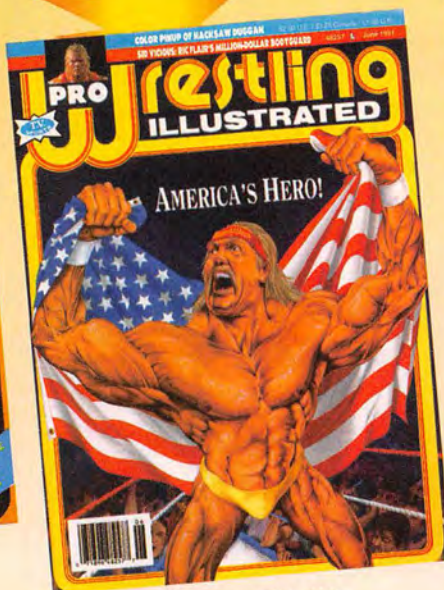
Our 100th issue!

1. Who is the greatest wrestler?
2. Which is the greatest tag team?
3. Who is the best manager?
4. Who is the best TV announcer?
5. Who is your favorite wrestler?
6. Who is your least favorite wrestler?
7. Who is your favorite tag team?
8. Which is the best match?
9. Who is the most dominant wrestling family?
10. Which is the best specialty match (e.g. battle royal, steel cage, falls-count-anywhere, barbed-wire, etc.)?
11. Which is the best feud?

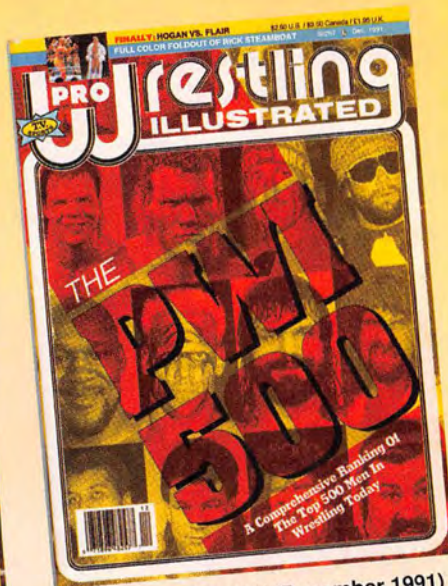
SPECIAL READERS' POLL: IN THE PWI YEARS!



Happy 10th anniversary to us!



An unusual cover



The first "PWI 500" (December 1991)

12. Which is the best weekly TV program?

13. Which is the best pay-per-view?

14. Who is the sexiest male wrestler?

15. Who is the sexiest valet/manager?

16. Who is the ugliest wrestler?

17. Which is the most shocking turn—from fan favorite to rule-breaker or from rulebreaker to fan favorite?

18. Who is the most intimidating wrestler?

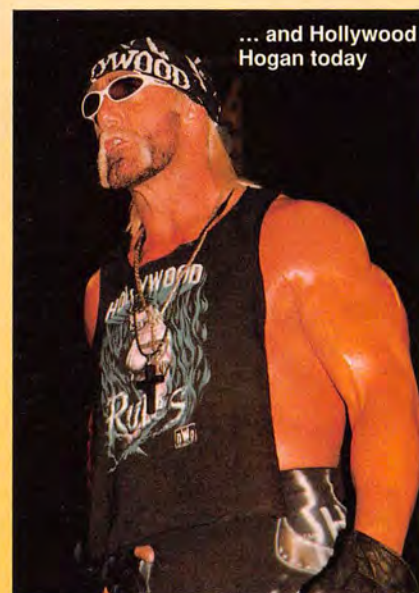
19. Who is the most unusual wrestler?

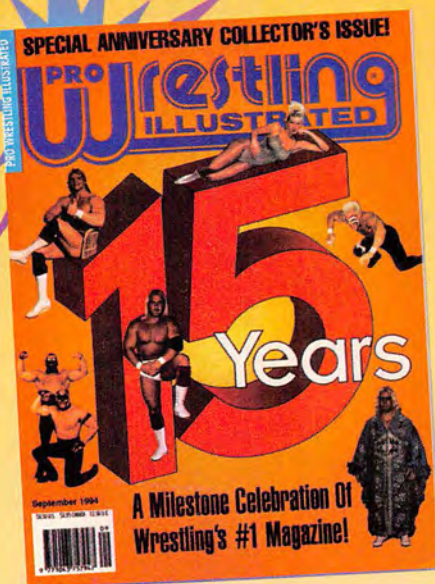
20. Which is the most dominant clique?

21. Which was the most violent match?

22. Who is the most violent wrestler?

23. Who is the best interview subject?





Happy 15th!

24. Who is the worst interview subject?

25. What is the single most memorable event?

26. Who is wrestling's most influential person?

27. Which promotion do you wish never folded?

28. Which is your favorite federation?

29. Which is your favorite independent federation?

30. Which is the single greatest finishing hold/maneuver?

31. Which matchup that never happened would you have liked to have seen?

32. What is the scariest incident you have ever witnessed in a wrestling ring?

33. Who is the greatest female wrestler?

34. Which was the most unusual gimmick?

35. Which was the worst gimmick?

36. Who is the greatest *PWI* writer or columnist?

37. What was *PWI*'s most memorable story?

38. What was *PWI*'s most memorable cover?

39. Which was the greatest five-year period for wrestling?

40. Who is the greatest scientific wrestler?

Woman:
sexiest
manager?



Missing Link: most unusual?





Bastion Booger:
ugliest?

45. Who is the greatest brawler?

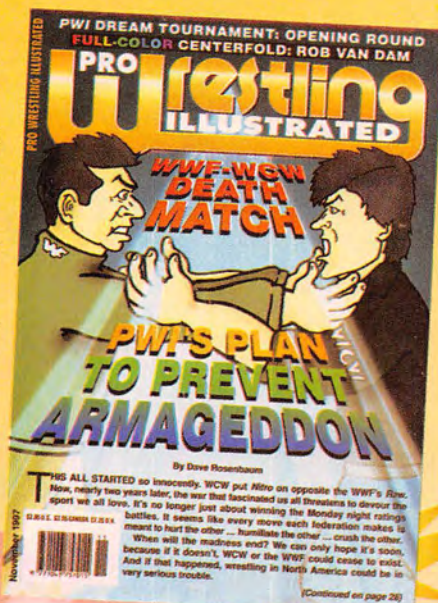
46. What is the greatest upset?

47. What is the most daring act by
a wrestler?

48. Who is the most personally
offensive wrestler?

49. Who is the best celebrity
wrestler?

50. Who is the worst celebrity
wrestler?



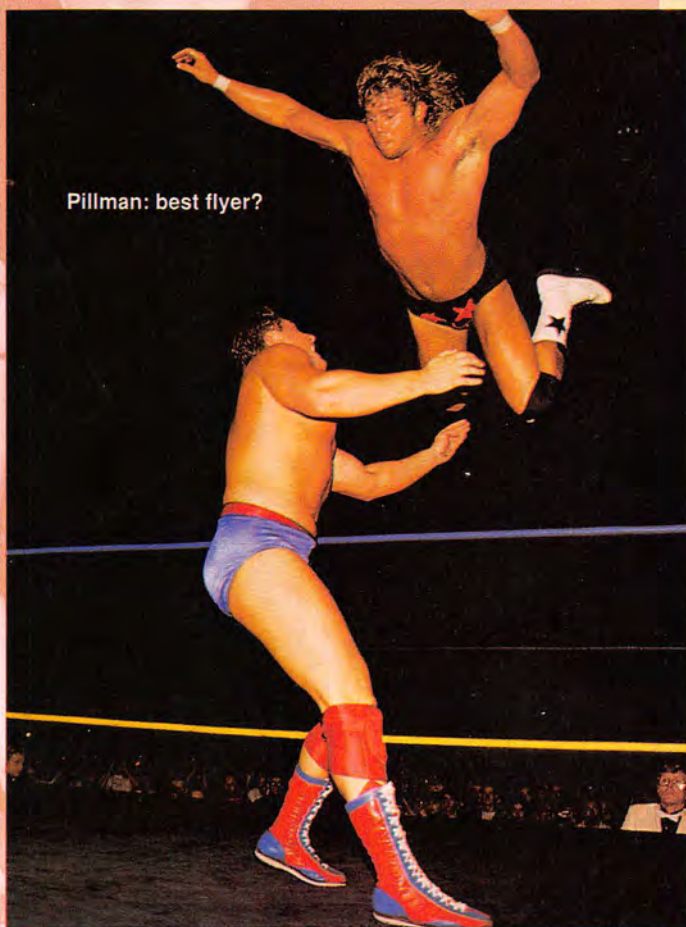
Remember this cover?

41. Who is the greatest aerial
wrestler?

42. Who was the greatest over-
achiever?

43. Who accomplished the least
with his skills?

44. Who was the greatest wrestler
never to win a world title?



Pillman: best flyer?

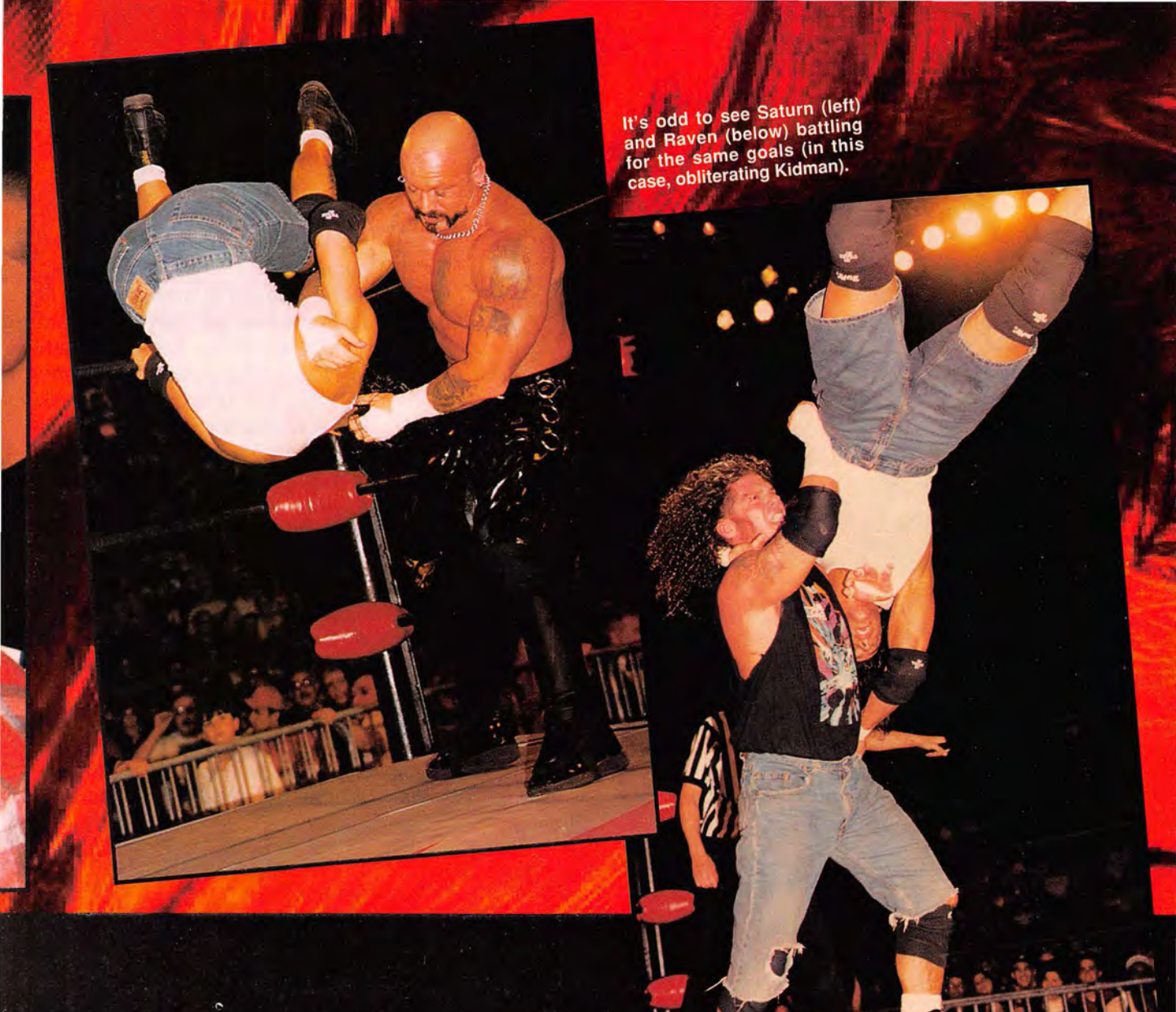


Perry Saturn (right) battled furiously to get away from Raven (below, speaking with Billy Kidman). Now they're together again, raising questions about Saturn's sanity ... and Raven's true intentions.

WAKE UP, SATURN!

“NICE GUY” RAVEN’S STILL

Perry Saturn and Raven have been a successful tag team since they reunited. But what's in this for Raven, and what's in it for Saturn? The answer seems clear: everything for Raven, nothing for Saturn



It's odd to see Saturn (left) and Raven (below) battling for the same goals (in this case, obliterating Kidman).

PLAYING WITH YOUR HEAD!

By Dave Rosenbaum

WASN'T HE TRYING to get away from this guy?

Well, that's what everybody thought last fall, when Perry Saturn defeated Raven to supposedly liberate himself and the rest of Raven's Flock. Saturn wanted to get as far away from Raven as possible, and when he finally suc-

ceeded, the wrestling world breathed a sigh of relief. After all, slavery was outlawed in the United States a long time ago.

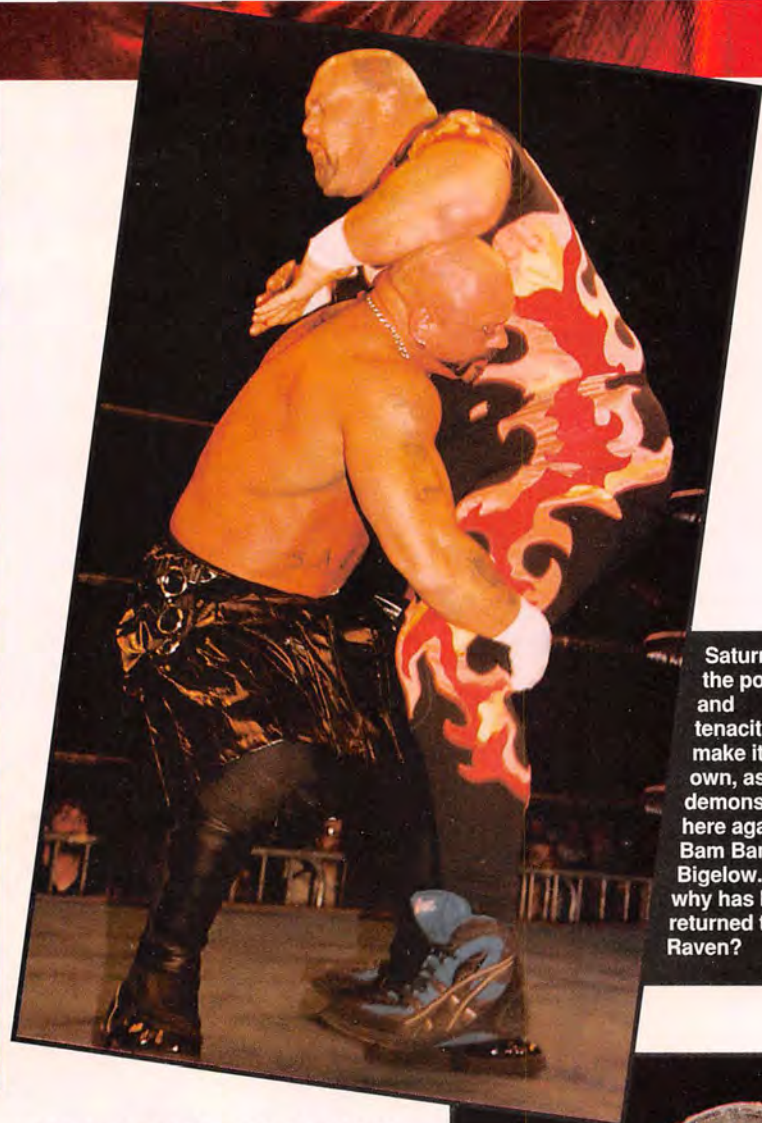
Then again, what do you expect from a man who wears a dress? And we're not talking about one of those Roddy Piper dresses. That's not a dress; it's a kilt. What Saturn wears is a dress.

Heck, maybe he thinks it goes

nicely with his emerald-green eyes.

Then again, maybe Saturn's just out of this world. Like maybe he's from Saturn ... the planet. Maybe it's not Raven who was out of his mind all this time.

The evidence is overwhelming: Perry Saturn doesn't know what he wants. That night he lost to Chris Jericho at Souled Out and had to



Saturn has the power and tenacity to make it on his own, as he demonstrates here against Bam Bam Bigelow. So why has he returned to Raven?

Malenko and Rey Misterio Jr. and Billy Kidman. They're also fighting off the Horsemen. And hanging out together.

"Craziest damn thing I've ever seen," said Arn Anderson of the Horsemen. "But let me tell you something: There's a weakness there, and we're gonna get at it. Let's see how together Raven and Saturn are when we really start dishing out the punishment. If you ask me, Saturn's in this for real, but Raven's the one we can go after, because once we put them in a position where Raven has to make a choice, I know who he'll choose: himself. And that's when that team falls apart."

Raven seemed like a different man when he returned from his three-month sabbatical. Prior to the layoff, he seemed trapped in a manic depressive fog. Noted psychoanalyst Dr. Sidney M. Basil opined that Raven was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. When Raven returned to the ring,

(Continued on page 57)

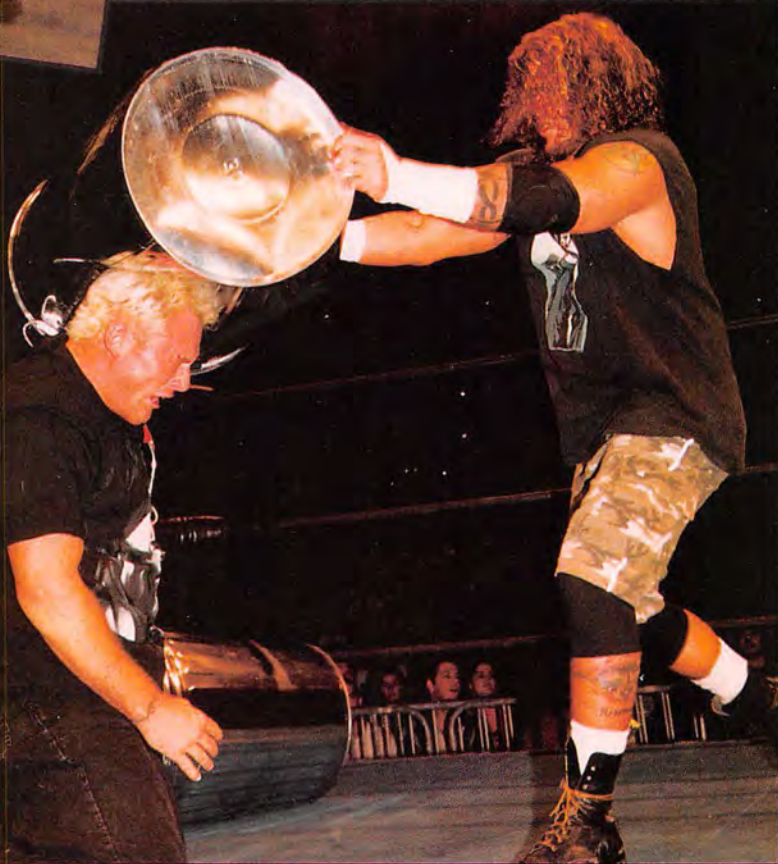
wear a dress for 90 days? Remember how he complained about that match? He told us that the referee, Scott Dickinson, had it in for him. "I'm not the type to whine, but I shouldn't have to wear no dress because of some fast count," he said.

Well, more than 90 days after he first put on that dress, Saturn was still wearing it. He refused to take it off.

Weird.

And now he's back with Raven, his old nemesis, the man he tried so hard to get away from. Not only are they together, but at Slamboree '99, they won the WCW World tag team title in a three-way match against the teams of Chris Benoit and Dean

Raven (hitting Hak with a trash can) might soon be doing the same to his own partner. At least that's the fear of many who doubt the Raven-Saturn team is for real.



close-up: MANKIND

HE HAS BEEN known as Cactus Jack, Dude Love, Mick Foley, and Mankind. Whatever you call him, he's an incredible brawler ... Born Mick Foley in 1965 ... Made his pro debut on June 24, 1983, defeating Kurt Kaufman ... Spent the first five years of his career on the independent circuit ... Moved to WCW, hooked up with Kevin Sullivan, and became known for his fearless, high-risk style ... Left WCW in 1990, competed in IWCW and the USWA, and returned to WCW to torment Sting ... Had a bloody feud with Abdullah the Butcher ... Attacked by Paul Orndorff prior to Clash of the Champions XXII on January 13, 1993 ... Surprised everyone by rescuing fan favorites Sting and Dustin Rhodes and elbowsmashing Orndorff ... Beat Orndorff in a falls-count-anywhere match at SuperBrawl III on February 21, 1993, but Orndorff repeatedly pounded on his oft-injured right knee ... Nearly had his career ended when he got power-bombed by Big Van Vader in April 1993. Suffered a severe concussion and periodic spells of amnesia ... Finally returned to battle Vader in a Texas death match at Halloween Havoc on October 24, 1993. Dominated, but lost when Harley Race, Vader's manager, stunned him with an electric prodger ... Teamed with Maxx Payne to make an unsuccessful run at the WCW World tag team title ... Their matches against The Nasty Boys were ultraviolent falls-count-anywhere matches in which all kinds of foreign objects were used, including pool cues, lead pipes, shovels, tables, and chairs ... Won the title with Kevin Sullivan on May 22, 1994 ... They lost the belts to Orndorff and Paul Roma on July 17, 1994 ... His relationship with Sullivan fell apart ... Lost to Sullivan in a loser-leaves-WCW match at Fall Brawl '94 ... Went to ECW and teamed with Mikey Whipwreck to beat Public Enemy for the ECW tag belts on August 27, 1994 ... Lost the belts three months later ... Defeated Sabu in a falls-count-anywhere match and became an ECW favorite because of his reckless style ... Won the Ozark Mountain Wrestling title on March 20, 1995 ... Beat ECW champion The Sandman by disqualification ... Turned against ECW partners Tommy Dreamer and The Pit Bulls ... During a match against Dreamer at the ECW Arena in October 1995, he tossed a burning chair, which had a gasoline-soaked towel wrapped around it, toward the ropes. When the towel landed on Funk, he threw it off, and it landed in the first row of fans. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured ... Made his WWF debut in March 1996 as Mankind and made headlines with his mandible claw, which opponents claimed was an illegal chokehold ... His interference caused The Undertaker to lose a casket match to Goldust on May 28, 1996 ... Beat Undertaker at King of the Ring '96 after Paul Bearer, Undertaker's manager, accidentally struck Taker with his urn ... Interfered in an Undertaker-Goldust match at In Your House IX by tearing through the bottom of the ring and attacking Undertaker ... Defeated Undertaker in a boiler room brawl at SummerSlam '96. The match ended Bearer's relationship with Undertaker; Bearer became Mankind's manager ... Beat Undertaker at the 1996 Survivor Series ... Was eliminated by Undertaker after 48 minutes at the 1997 Royal Rumble ... Lost to Hunter Hearst Helmsley in the finals of the 1997 King of the Ring tournament ... In his first appearance as Dude Love, he teamed with Steve Austin against Owen Hart and Davey Boy Smith and won the World tag team title on July 14, 1997 ... They vacated the title when Austin got injured ... Was pinned by Helmsley at the One Night Only pay-per-view in Birmingham, England, on September 20, 1997 ... Beat Intercontinental champion Owen Hart in non-title matches, but lost their title matches ... Was outbrawled in a loss to Kane at the 1997 Survivor Series. Kane threw Mankind from the ring apron through one of the broadcasters' tables ... Defeated Savio Vega in a falls-count-anywhere match ... Teamed with Funk, a.k.a. Chainsaw Charlie, in a few unsuccessful bids against World tag team champs The New Age Outlaws ... Finally defeated the Outlaws in a

dumpster match at WrestleMania XIV and appeared to have won the belts ... But the title was held up the next day when it was ruled that Funk and Cactus Jack had sealed the Outlaws in a backstage dumpster instead of the dumpster set up next to the ring ... The Outlaws prevailed in a rematch ... WWF owner Vince McMahon, who was embroiled in a feud with new World champ Steve Austin, used Dude Love to get at "Stone-Cold" ... Dude intervened in a scheduled match between McMahon and Austin at the April 13, 1998, *Raw* ... Battled Austin for the World title at Unforgiven on April 26. Seven minutes into the match, McMahon, Pat Patterson, and Gerald Brisco came to ringside. Dude Love had Austin in an abdominal stretch when McMahon told the timekeeper to ring the bell. But Austin reversed the hold. Austin ended up smashing McMahon with a chair, hitting Dude with a Stone-Cold stunner, then counting to three himself as he covered him. McMahon was carried off on a stretcher, and Dude was ruled the winner by disqualification ... McMahon thought he had a foolproof plan for foiling Austin when he appointed himself referee and Mankind timekeeper for an Austin-Helmsley match in Toronto. But Austin chased Mankind from the ring and got a three-count when a second referee made the count ... Austin again found a way to beat Dude at Over the Edge, even though McMahon was the referee and Brisco was the timekeeper. Mankind accidentally knocked out McMahon with a chair;

Austin scored the pin when he lifted the WWF owner's hand and slapped the mat three times ... Austin and Undertaker feuded with Kane and Mankind ... Mankind battled The Undertaker in a "Hell In A Cell" match at King of the Ring. Fans were awestruck as Taker sent Mankind tumbling from the cage roof through a table nearly 20 feet below. Undaunted, Mankind scaled the cage, only to be choke-slammed through the roof of the cage. Later, he was splashed onto a bed of thumbtacks and got up. The Undertaker won by pinfall ... When D-Lo Brown charged into the ring to frog-splash Jesse James, Mankind and Kane won the WWF World tag team belts from The New Age Outlaws on July 13, 1998 ... Lost the belts two weeks later to Austin and The Undertaker ... Kane refused to team with Mankind at SummerSlam, then hit Mankind with a sledgehammer after The New Age Outlaws had beaten him for the tag belts ... Wrestled with Undertaker and Kane in four-way matches against Austin for the World title ... When the World title was declared vacant, a title tournament was held. Mankind lost to The Rock in the tournament final at the 1998 Survivor Series. It was a double-cross by McMahon, who ordered the bell rang immediately after Rock placed Mankind in a sharpshooter ... Mankind, who had been calling McMahon "Dad," realized he had been screwed by McMahon ... Got revenge against McMahon at Rock Bottom. Busted a few of The Rock's ribs before the show, then gave every member of Vince's entourage a taste of the mandible claw ... Austin helped Mankind beat The Rock for his first world title on December 29, 1998 ... Lost the title to Rock in an "I Quit" match at the Royal Rumble, although it was clear Mankind never submitted ... Regained the belt from The Rock a few days later in an empty arena match that aired during halftime of the Super Bowl on the USA Network ... Lost the title to Rock again on February 15, 1999, after Paul Wight interfered ... At WrestleMania XV, had to be taken to the hospital after getting choke-slammed by Wight during a match that was to determine who would referee the main event. Later returned, however, to make the three-count on Rock in Austin's title victory ... Beat Wight in a bloody boiler room brawl at Backlash ... Now has formed an anti-Shane McMahon "union" with Wight, Ken Shamrock, and Test as members ... After all these years in the sport, Mankind's at the top of his game. He just might be the greatest brawler of all-time. □





PRO
Illustration
ILLUSTRATED

MANKIND

Have A Nice Day!



GREATEST MATCH

vs. The Rock, December 29, 1998. More than 15 years had passed since Mick Foley had made his pro debut. Along the way, he had won his share of titles, but not once had he gotten the chance to strap a world championship belt around his waist. For so many years, he dreamed of being *the man* in the sport he loved so much. With a little help from Steve Austin, he became the man in the WWF by beating The Rock on this magical night.



MOST HATED OPPONENT

The Undertaker. This is one relationship that's *not* hard to figure out. Taker and Mankind despise each other. Save for a few months when they were on the same side, they've never gotten along well at all. Mankind had very good luck against Undertaker when he first arrived in the WWF and took great pride in beating him. As Taker becomes more and more obsessed with evil, Mankind hates him more and more.



TOUGHEST OPPONENT

Steve Austin. It's hard to figure out the relationship Mick Foley's various personae have with "Stone-Cold." Friends ... uneasy allies ... rivals ... who knows? They've teamed many times and battled each other even more often. Foley, as Dude Love, gave Austin the toughest matches of his first reign as WWF champ last year. But even with a lot of help from Vince McMahon, he couldn't unseat "Stone-Cold."



FAVORITE HOLD

Mandible claw. If you're planning to pursue a career in pro wrestling, don't expect to be taught this hold when you get to wrestling school. Not that there's much to it, anyway. Mankind simply jams the two middle fingers on his right hand into the mouth and throat of his opponent. If he has Socko on his hand, the mandible claw becomes even more devastating ... and disgusting.



...this month in... ..

Inside Wrestling



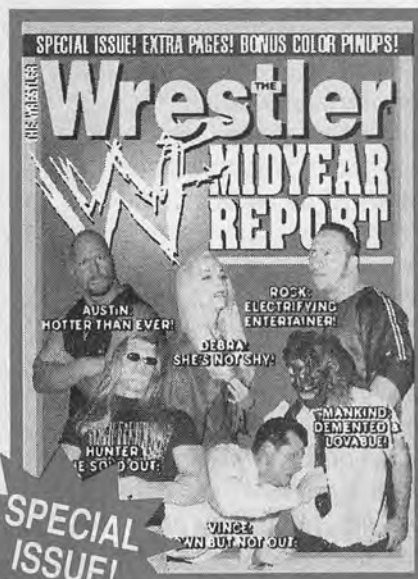
Seems like almost everyone in the WWF believes **SHANE McMAHON** will eventually pay dearly for betraying his father—that he needs **VINCE**'s guidance. We're wondering if *Vince* can make it without Shane's support

... What's really going on with **BRET HART**? Is he going back to the WWF or staying with WCW? Might he be retiring? We tried to get some real answers when we put him on our "Hotseat" ... **KEN SHAMROCK** considers himself "The World's Most Dangerous Man," but is he most dangerous to himself?

All this—and much more!—
in the September 1999 issue of
Inside Wrestling

**NOW
ON SALE!**

Wrestler



STEVE AUSTIN got hotter and more popular (and won another WWF title), **VINCE** and **SHANE McMAHON** split again, **SABLE** showed us more than she has ever shown, and *Raw*'s ratings soared in the first half of '99. We'll review the good (there was a lot), the bad, and all the rest in our WWF Midyear Report ... What's with **DALLAS PAGE**'s new attitude? Why is he mad at the fans? He'll give you his reasons—and tell you why he lashed out at **STING** ... We'll show you how **PAUL WIGHT** made fools out of the McMahons!

All this—and much more!—
in the September 1999 issue of
The Wrestler

**NOW
ON SALE!**



VS. WCW

THE MONDAY NIGHT WAR

By Steve Anderson

ceberg straight ahead ... *Raw's* titanic ratings during a four-week time span are record-breaking and earth-shattering. Or should we say WCW-shattering.

There were those who believed the WCW ills could be eliminated if it could just prevent its 8 p.m. (Eastern) viewers from clicking over to *Raw* when the show comes on the air at 9. But that really hasn't been WCW's biggest problem. It's really the other seven quarter-hours and the overrun that now present the problem. While it's true that *Nitro's* numbers do not drop after the first hour, they start falling, even plummeting, soon thereafter.

Usually, overruns show a very high rating, some would say artificially so. A viewer could be watching two to three hours of non-wrestling programming, only to tune in at the close of the final hour to catch any late-breaking action. From the numbers, the curiosity-seekers are partial to *Raw* overruns. The week of May 18 saw the largest gap in recent memory. A difference of over five ratings points separated *Nitro* from *Raw*.

Nitro needs to stop *Raw's* momentum—and fast.

Jake Uncaged ... Steve Austin showed two sides to his personality. First, he appeared on *The Late, Late Show With Craig Kilborn*. There, Austin talked frankly about how he came to be "Stone-Cold" and his feelings on other WWF superstars. The following night CBS deemed "Stone-Cold Friday." Austin returned to *Nash Bridges* as renegade cop Jake Cage in the show's season finale. While he did



"Stone-Cold" Jake Cage, uh, make that Steve Austin addresses his legion of fans, who now can catch him on *Nash Bridges*. There is talk of Austin doing a made-for-TV movie and perhaps a series based on his TV character.

not achieve the ratings of his first go-round with Don Johnson, the numbers were still respectable. Rumors are still afloat that Jake Cage could return in a television

movie or a weekly series of his own.

A storm for Thunder ... As if *Nitro* has not been taking enough of a beating these last few months,

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

APRIL 27

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	5.3	5.6	6.3	6.0	6.3	6.0	5.6	6.3	6.8	6.0
Nitro	3.7	4.2	4.4	5.1	4.9	3.8	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.3	3.6	3.9 (3.7)*

* Head-to-head composite

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: Both shows, while appealing to the television audience, were hardly satisfactory for the live crowd. The WWF featured backstage interplay between Vince McMahon and The Undertaker. Over at WCW, Ric Flair

had a camera crew at the mental hospital, covering his every move and decision. *Nitro* did have ring action consisting of two world title changes, but viewers flocked to see the McMahons and their newfound hero, Steve Austin.

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

MAY 4

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	5.4	5.4	6.7	6.1	6.6	6.7	7.3	6.7	7.4	6.5
Nitro	3.2	3.8	4.5	4.4	3.7	3.5	3.0	3.6	2.9	2.9	2.4	2.9	3.0	3.4 (3.1)

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: The formation of The Union went against Ric Flair's newfound friends from the mental hospital. Shane McMahon targeted dear old Dad as the "Nature Boy" was doling out punishment to his son David. Another

argument that Monday night wrestling is not family night. But the gap in the overrun (*Nitro* had Page vs. Flair and *Raw* featured the non-match of Austin vs. Rock) was surprisingly lopsided considering Flair should still be a ratings grabber.

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

MAY 11

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	6.7	7.8	8.2	8.4	8.3	8.6	8.4	8.3	9.2	8.1
Nitro	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: The story here is not *Raw* going unopposed (*Nitro* was pre-empted by the NBA playoffs), but how well it did without competition. For *Raw* to stay in the eight point range for a majority of the program is

unprecedented. And if that were not enough, it exceeded nine points on the overrun. The WWF nearly matched the cumulative rating that both shows receive on any given Monday.

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

MAY 18

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	5.0	5.1	6.1	6.2	7.3	7.1	6.5	7.1	7.8	6.4
Nitro	3.4	3.8	4.3	4.3	4.3	3.8	2.9	3.2	2.6	2.5	2.8	2.6	2.4	3.3 (3.1)

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: As *Raw*'s ratings rose, *Nitro*'s sank. The one-week respite for *Nitro* did more harm than good. *Nitro* was overrun in the overrun, 7.8-2.4, the largest gap

between the two in recent memory. *Raw* was chock-full of sneak-attacks and wrestling action, while *Nitro* honed in on personality conflicts between would-be executives.

UPN's *Smackdown* special will become a weekly series on the network beginning this fall (though it might carry a different name). The one-time broadcast that aired on April 29 in most markets earned high ratings for the network (it did better than the offerings from rival networks WB and ABC in the same time slot) and took a sizable bite out of the already-struggling *Thunder*'s ratings in the process. Because this new show will be airing on an over-the-air network (as opposed to *Thunder*, which is

broadcast on a cable station), it will be available to approximately 200,000 more households than *Thunder*.

The one concern Vince McMahon might have about producing another two-hour show every week is whether he will be giving the public too much of a good thing ... and what effect it might have on *Raw*. When WCW added *Thunder* to its weekly lineup in January 1998, WCW was the hotter promotion, and *Nitro* was regularly thrashing *Raw* in the ratings. But it

soon became evident that *Nitro* was still the WCW show to watch every week, and that *Thunder* was a clear second. Might *Raw* become of secondary importance to the WWF?

The pressure will obviously be on McMahon to produce *two* must-see programs each week, and that might not be as easy as it sounds. But anyone who knows McMahon knows he will do everything in his power to see that his shows beat WCW's programs every Monday night and every Thursday night. □

the Steel Cage

By Dave Rosenbaum

READERS' WRITES. Don't you love tradition? I do, especially when it's funny tradition. Back in the June 1999 issue of *PWI*, I offered my own "PWI Poll"—15 questions that the "PWI Poll" didn't dare to ask, but that I wanted you, the reader, to answer.

Well, for the second year in a row, a reader supplied me with a set of answers that warranted reprinting. This year's impressive, insightful, and funny answers were supplied by Elana Armitage.

Ms. Armitage, the column is yours.

The questions, followed by our intelligent reader's answers:

1. If you could have Vince McMahon's money, but as part of the package you had to take his personality, too, would you make the deal?

Replied Ms. Armitage: "I would rather shove razor blades up my nose and eat sandpaper than take even the teeniest bit of McMahon's personality."

2. If you could have Eric Bischoff's job, but as part of the package you had to take his personality, too, would you make the deal?

Added Ms. Armitage: "It's not like Bischoff is much better. The man also has no respect for anybody he works with (except for the NWO, and that's because if it weren't for them, he'd still be doing commentary). But at least he has a bit of a personality."

3. Could Bam Bam Bigelow have come up with a more ridiculous name for his finishing maneuver than greet-

ings from Asbury Park? And what makes Bruce Springsteen sicker, the idea that Ronald Reagan used his "Born In The U.S.A." as a campaign song in 1984, or that Bigelow uses

greetings from Asbury Park (also the name of Springsteen's first album) as the name of his finishing maneuver? Readers, please explain your answer.

Ms. Armitage was so succinct on this question. "I think we should just be thankful Bigelow didn't call his finishing move wham, bam, thank you, ma'am. When you put it that way, greetings from Asbury Park doesn't seem too bad, does it?"

4. Do Gerald Brisco, Sgt. Slaughter, and Pat Patterson have any respect for themselves, or have they become complete corporate shells for Vince McMahon?

Wrote Ms. Armitage: "There's nothing sadder than watching three middle-aged men throw away what little dignity and pride they may have had in order to serve every ridiculous and embarrassing whim of an even more pathetic middle-aged man, McMahon, who is trying desperately

Bam Bam Bigelow executes his wham, bam, thank you, ma'am finishing maneuver on Perry Saturn. Actually, this move is still called greetings from Asbury Park, which doesn't sound quite as silly as Dave Rosenbaum contends.



to cling to what little he has."

5. Was Sid Vicious' debut in ECW the biggest joke in wrestling history? Does Sid get the joke?

Asked Ms. Armitage: "Sid debuted in ECW? You mean he's not dead?"

6. When Tony Schiavone looks in the mirror each morning, what does he say to the man looking back?

Wrote Ms. Armitage: "If Tony Schiavone says anything to himself in the mirror, it's only because he likes the sound of his voice. I'm imagining something like, 'I'm good enough, I'm smart enough, and doggone it, people like me.'"

7. David Flair, Ric Flair's son, made his pro debut at WCW's Souled Out in January. Will Ric Flair's grandson make his pro debut before Flair retires?

Said Ms. Armitage: "I have a feeling we may get to see Flair's great grandson in the ring before he retires for good."

8. Which is more valuable, first prize in the Publishers Clearinghouse Sweepstakes, or free wrestling pay-per-views for one year? How many shares of Intel does a wrestling fan have to sell to afford every wrestling pay-per-view? And do wrestling promoters have so little respect for the wrestling public that they think it has bottomless pockets?

"Without a doubt, first place in Publishers Clearinghouse is more valuable," wrote Ms. Armitage. "Have you seen what they're trying to pan off as a pay-per-view? It's like paying 30 dollars or more for an extended *Raw* or *Nitro*. I don't think there are enough Intel shares in the world for a fan to sell, and as for promoters thinking the fans have bottomless pockets, if we can afford the occasional pay-per-view after buying the T-shirts, posters, home videos, video games, dolls, toys, etc., I don't think they're too far off."

9. Why does Matt Brock keep telling us he's going to retire when we all know damn well that there's no way the old man is ever going to



From the neck up, she's all woman. From the neck down, it looks like she's as strong as any man. Some people are excited by Chyna's hard look. Others, like Rosenbaum and reader Elana Armitage, are confused.

retire? What's he going to do in retirement, sit in his efficiency watching *Nitro* and *Raw* on his old black and white Philco?

Opined Ms. Armitage: "Matt Brock threatens us with retirement so he can increase the number of people who read his column. You never know when it's his last. Like most crusty old men, he'll spend his time moaning about how things used to be and probably start writing a lot of hate mail."

10. About Mankind: Is he the most confused soul on the face of this planet? And does he really even care whether or not he's WWF World champion?

Ms. Armitage wrote: "Mankind has taken one too many shots to the head and should pack it in ... 'He' has no idea whether he's coming or going

most of the time, and if the WWF title is the only thing he can concentrate on for longer than 30 seconds, let him."

11. Does Sable spend as much attention to her inner beauty as she does on her outward appearance?

"If Sable spent as much time and energy on her inner self as she does money on her outer self, she could be a candidate for sainthood," Ms. Armitage wrote.

12. What kind of look is Chyna going for? Is she supposed to be tough, feminine, or both? How about neither?

Critiqued Ms. Armitage: "I don't think Chyna knows what kind of look she's portraying. It's like she feels pressure to flaunt her implants like the rest of the women in the WWF, yet still wants to be taken seriously for her athleticism."

13. Did Hulk Hogan learn how to retire from Michael Jordan?

Pointed out Ms. Armitage: "As long as there are spotlights to steal, Hogan will be there."

14. What is the purpose of the *Nitro* girls?

Wrote Ms. Armitage: "The *Nitro* girls serve many purposes. For one, before Chastity's arrival, WCW was seriously lacking the whole T & A thing that McMahon and ECW had going. Also, distract from the fact that once you cut away all the in-ring interviews and replays from previous *Nitros* and *Thunders*, an episode of *Nitro* is really only about 90 minutes long. I also figure that the head of WCW/Turner Sports is just a dirty old man who gets his jollies from watching scantily clad women prance around in front of a crowd."

15. Is Chris Jericho kidding us, or what?

Unfortunately, Ms. Armitage lost her sense of humor when it came to Jericho. Apparently, she's a Jerichoholic. Too bad.

Well, anyway, congratulations, Elana. You've won the right to read my column every month for the next year.

As for the rest of you, try again next year. □

win or lose draw

By Harry Burkett

"CUT THE MUSIC! I want all the women in the crowd to look at the dirty, fat, out-of-shape Kansas City sweatogs they call husbands, then lay their eyes on a *real* man."

"Ravishing" Rick Rude was stylishly tacky. That may be a disrespectful way to describe a superstar in the wake of his premature death, but that's how I'll remember him.

Rude died at North Fulton County Hospital in Georgia on April 20, shortly after he was found unconscious at his home in Alpharetta, Georgia. The cause of death had not been determined as of press time.

Despite a back injury that sidelined him from active competition in 1994, he was still a major force in the sport, making appearances in WCW, the WWF, and ECW. During the past few years, he was a member of the premier cliques of all three federations, including the New World Order, DeGeneration X, and ECW's Triple Threat. No one else can lay claim to that accomplishment.

As dapper as Rude looked wearing a suit and carrying a briefcase, I prefer to remember him at the height of his career. He dominated every federation in which he competed. He held the WCW United States, WWF Intercontinental, and World Class, Southern, and WCW International heavyweight titles. While he never held a world championship recognized by this magazine, Rude was a huge impact player in many prominent promotions.

Rude was every promoter's dream. He was athletically gifted and had the personality to match. And he was loyal to his principles. He sold his services to the highest bidder, insulted every capacity crowd, and

never sought fan approval. Brandi Mankiewicz was always very proud of him.

I began following Rick Rude's career in 1983, back in the days when he spelled his surname "R-O-O-D." Only two years into his pro career, he received an education in toughness in Georgia and the Mid-South, where he was knocked around by the likes of The Road Warriors and Mr. Wrestling II.

He dominated the Florida scene for much of 1985 while under the tutelage of Percy Pringle (Paul Bearer), who advised him to compete in World Class. Rude was a natural enemy of the Von Erichs, and as the American champion in World Class, he infuriated Texas mainstays when he was declared World Class' "world" heavyweight champion when it seceded from the NWA in 1986.

That was akin to beating up the Cartwrights and taking over the Ponderosa. Rude loved every minute of it.

By the time Rude hit the WWF in 1987, he was a bona fide star. But fame didn't mellow his bristling personality. Rude's feud with Jake Roberts became personal when "The Ravishing One" began wearing tights depicting Roberts' wife, Cheryl.

Disgusting and tacky. Really good stuff, too.

He pulled another tacky stunt during his stint in ECW. He was an associate of The Triple Threat when clique leader Shane Douglas asked Rude to find suitable challengers for his ECW title. On the night of October 16, 1997, in Queens, New York, Rude chose fellow Triple Threat member Bam Bam Bigelow, who defeated a shocked and unprepared Douglas fairly easily.



The late Rick Rude was a very special wrestler. He was talented enough win titles in almost every promotion he wrestled for, and arrogant enough to dance over his defeated foes.

A month later, Rude performed the ultimate act of tackiness—and a bit of TV hocus-pocus—by appearing on a taped *Raw Is War* on the same night that he debuted on a live *Monday Nitro*. That sneaky deed placed him in the good graces of Eric Bischoff and the NWO and assured him a future in WCW.

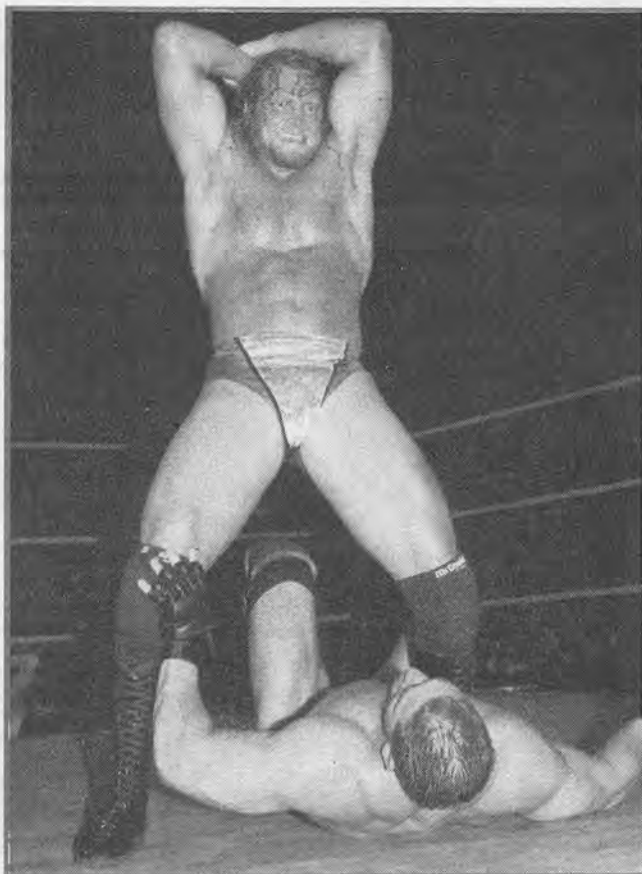
But it was as the close friend and confidant of longtime friend Curt Hennig that Rude made headlines. He used his acid dry wit to bash Hennig's opponents verbally and used his metal briefcase to punish them physically.

Rude, apparently believing that his back had healed sufficiently, was reportedly thinking about returning to the squared circle at the time of his death, most likely in the WWF. His risque style, which was considered abhorrent only a decade ago, would have fit in perfectly with the WWF's bad attitude brand of sports entertainment. Judging from the wild reaction he received during his brief stint as a bodyguard for DeGeneration X, his second foray into WWF competition could have been even more successful than his first.

A showdown with WWF World champion Steve



Rude took on the role of manager after suffering a career-ending back injury in 1994. Regardless of his role, he managed to remain a major force in ECW, WCW, and the WWF.



The Val Venis character is just one of many that borrows heavily from the "Ravishing" Rick Rude persona. Ironically, Rude was contemplating a comeback in the WWF at the time of his death.

Austin must have been foremost on his mind. With his blend of strength, finesse, and experience, Rude could have been "Stone-Cold's" toughest opponent yet. It's a shame that match never happened.

"There's an aspect of Rude's personality that won't be explored in the tributes and honors you'll hear in the coming months," Contributing Writer Liz Hunter told me shortly after his death. "In the male-dominated world of wrestling, he'll be hailed as a great athlete and a tremendous champion. But there's no underestimating the throngs of women he attracted to the arenas. He often came across as degrading and immature, but that did give him a certain bad boy appeal."

As was the case with legends who have died before, elements of his personality and ring style live in today's generation of stars. Val Venis doesn't have Debra's face on his tights, but his hip-swiveling and prematch comments are very Rudesque—minus the trash-talking.

Scott Steiner walks in Rude's darker shadow. He is arrogant and in love with himself, yet comes across as barbaric and primitive. If you combine Venis and Steiner, you'll come up with something close to Rude. Val and Scott would probably be the first to admit it.

Stylishly tacky. I'm sure that's how Rick Rude would want us to remember him. □



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arena reports

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UNITED STATES

ALABAMA

HUNTSVILLE—WCW at the Von Braun Center: Erik Watts beat Silver King ... Scotty Riggs beat Scott Norton ... Raven defeated Hak ... TV champion Booker T beat Dave "Fit" Finlay ... Billy Kidman pinned Ernest Miller ... Sting beat Bam Bam Bigelow. (04-24-99)

—Dominick Valenti

ARIZONA

TUCSON—Dragon's Den Wrestling at We Went Wong's: Hardcore champion Section 8 beat Peyaso del Muerte ... Heavyweight champion The Ranger beat Chris Blair ... Middleweight champion Ed Knight beat light heavyweight champion T in a non-title match ... Thriller Johnson beat T to win the light heavyweight title ... Big William Duke beat Carpetbagger ... Big William Duke beat Pauley Stevens ... Black Venom beat New Kid Delinquent ... Ed Knight beat Black Mamba by disqualification ... Ron Sutherland Sr. beat Pauley Stevens ... Hardcore champion Section 8 beat heavyweight champion The Ranger (Ranger's belt was not on the line) ... Funktruck beat Chris Blair. (04-06-99)

—John Grant

ARKANSAS

SILLOAM SPRINGS—WWA at the National Guard Armory: Terry Bryant defeated Stan Sweetan ... Mikael Koloff beat Joey Ventura ... Mr. Wrestling III pinned Brad Williams ... Don Fargo pinned Majestic ... Tag team champions The Reaper & Adrian Steel beat Jason Windham & Yukon Eric Jr. ... Tommy Rich pinned Doink ... Heavyweight champion Kevin Northcutt defeated One Man Gang in a weapons match. (04-24-99)

—Kayla Jeannene

FORT SMITH—Global Pro Wrestling at Wild Wing's Club: Gem Diamond pinned Chad Jones

... Bubba Monroe beat Ted Napier ... Light heavyweight champion Jeff Jett defeated Max Riproc ... Nitetrain C. Crane beat Snapp Dogg ... Tim Storm defeated The New York Nightmare by disqualification ... 100 Percent Sexy beat Trevor Rhodes & Nitetrain C. Crane ... Johnny D defeated Max Riproc ... The New York Nightmare beat Insane ... Light heavyweight champion Jeff Jett beat Eric Michaels ... 100 Percent Sexy beat Tim Storm & Ted Napier. (04-17-99)

—Matt Duffield

CALIFORNIA

PACIFICA—All-Pro Wrestling at Terra Nova High School: Chicano Flame II won a 14-man battle royal, last eliminating Chicano Flame I ... Chris Ward defeated Tony Jones by disqualification ... Boom Boom Comini beat Jason C. Clay ... Chicano Flame I defeated Chicano Flame II in a loser-must-unmask match ... Boyce LeGrande defeated Frank Murdoch ... Vinny Massaro defeated Nathaniel Sweete ... Universal champion Maxx Justice beat Michael Modest in a no-disqualification match. (04-24-99)

—Jeremy Medeiros

CONNECTICUT

NAUGATUCK—Northeast Wrestling's "Spring Slam '99" at the High School: Juan Xavier pinned Johnny Handsome ... Teddy Reade beat Julio of La Raza ... George "The Animal" Steele beat Sledge (with Paul Adams) by submission ... Half Nelson & Short Sleeve Sampson defeated Tiny the Terrible & L'il Killer in a midjet tag team match ... Tommy Rogers pinned Reckless Youth ... Gillberg beat Rich Myers ... Adolfo of La Raza beat Diamond Dragon ... Jake Roberts pinned Spanish Angel ... Ralph Mosca beat Tony DeVito in a no-disqualification, no-countout match ... "Psycho" Sid Vicious & Youngblood beat Primo Camera III & John Diamond. (04-23-99)

—Jason Peters

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON—ECWA at St. Matthew's Parish Hall: Christopher Daniels pinned Jeff Peterson ... A three-way tag team match between tag team champions Ace Darling & Devon Storm, Christian York & Joey Matthews, and Mark Shrader & Thunder ended in a double-pin. Since both York and Shrader made simultaneous pins, Commissioner Richard Naegele declared the title held up and announced that Shrader & Thunder would face York & Matthews at the next card ... Inferno Kid & Rich Myers beat Flash Flanagan & Sweet Mister E ... Lance Diamond pinned

Vincent Goodnite ... The Soul Brothers & Boogie Woogie Brown beat The Persian Prince, The Commando, & Phil Lynn ... Gillberg pinned Mr. Ooh La La ... Glen Osbourne, J.R. Ryder, & J.J. The Ring Crew Guy beat Brute Force in a "War Games"-style cage match. (04-17-99)

—Jeff Amdur & Bret Schwan

FLORIDA

MIAMI—WCW at Miami Arena: Ernest Miller beat Jerry Flynn ... Norman Smiley beat Horace ... World tag team champions Billy Kidman & Rey Mysterio Jr. beat Chris Benoit & Dean Malenko ... Rick Steiner beat Bam Bam Bigelow ... Konnan beat Disco Inferno ... Bill Goldberg beat Meng ... Randy Savage defeated Ric Flair. (04-16-99)

—Joe Davidson

GEORGIA

LOGANVILLE—NWA Georgia at the Georgia Belle Flea Market: David Young beat Air Paris ... T.J. Gray beat Tiger Khan by disqualification ... Tag team champions Billy Black & Joel Deaton beat Bart Sawyer & Tiger Khan ... Heavyweight champion Silky Boom Boom beat Frenchy Riviera. (04-22-99)

—Peter Warren

LOGANVILLE—NWA Georgia at the Georgia Belle Flea Market: Vic Roze pinned Bulldog Raines ... David Young wrestled to a draw with Triple-A ... Chad Hawke beat Tiger Khan ... Bart Sawyer beat T.J. Gray by reverse decision ... Heavyweight champion Lord Hongomous pinned Silky Boom Boom ... Tag team champions Billy Black & Vic Roze beat The Centerfolds. (04-08-99)

—Michael Dailey

ROSSVILLE—Tri-Star Wrestling at the TWA Arena: Skull Von Kruger beat Adam Jacobs ... Gene Spurlock & Danny Marlowe beat Johnny Blaze & Larry Santana ... Rawhead Rex beat Bobby Hayes by disqualification ... Tank Norton wrestled to a double-countout with Rick Justice ... Jimmy Sharpe & Randy Watkins beat Chuckie Chuck & Bane. (04-22-99)

—Bill Needham

INDIANA

NOTRE DAME—WWF at the Bryce Jordan Center: Owen Hart & Jeff Jarrett defeated Christian Cage & Edge ... Hardcore champion Bob Holly beat Val Venis ... Bradshaw & Faarooq defeated Skull & Eight-Ball ... Kane beat Mideon ... D-Lo Brown & Ivory beat Al

Snow & Tori ... Billy Gunn defeated Droz ... Jesse James & Paul Wight defeated Hunter Hearst Helmsley & The Rock ... Intercontinental champion The Godfather beat Goldust. (04-22-99)

—Ron Greer

KANSAS

PITTSBURG—WWA at the National Guard Armory: Mikael Koloff beat Majestic ... Don Fargo pinned Joey Ventura ... Doink pinned Brad Williams ... Stan Sweetan beat Terry Bryant ... Tag team champions The Reaper & Adrian Steel beat Yukon Eric Jr. & Jason Windham by disqualification ... Mr. Wrestling III pinned Tommy Rich ... Heavyweight champion Kevin Northcutt wrestled One Man Gang to a no-contest. (04-23-99)

—Kayla Jeannene

KENTUCKY

MITCHELL—Heartland Wrestling Association at Coyote's Music & Dance Hall: Terik the Great beat Todd Morton ... Chad Collier & Matt Stryker beat Astin Augustus Ambrose Esq. & Jeremy Jett ... Mad Anthony McMurphy beat Trailer Park Trash ... Cruiserweight champion Bobby Cassanova beat Shark Boy by disqualification ... Tag team champions Chip Fairway & Cody Hawk beat Brian Taylor & The Xtremist ... Bull Pain beat Bunkhouse Buck. (04-25-99)

—Brady Laber

PIKEVILLE—Southeastern Championship Wrestling's "Hillbilly Havoc" at Pike County High School: Madd Max beat The Punisher ... Jessie Taylor beat Romeo Bliss ... Skyfire defeated Stalee ... Tracey Smothers beat The Dirty White Boy ... Demolition Inc. beat Master Mayhem & Scream ... Mo won a three-way dance, beating Shane Austin and Black Angel ... WWF Intercontinental champion Goldust beat Jesse James. (04-10-99)

—Bill Needham

LOUISVILLE—Ohio Valley Championship Wrestling at Louisville Gardens: Damaja defeated American Eagle ... Chris Alexander & Kousin Krazy beat Back Alley Brawler & Rasputin ... Light heavyweight champion Johnny Spade beat Jason Lee ... Juan Hurtado & Rod Steele beat Guido & Vito Andretti ... Nick Dinsmore beat Rob Conway by countout ... Rip Rogers & Damaja beat Southern tag team champions Flash Flanagan & Trailer Park Trash by disqualification. (04-06-99)

—Bob Pontrich

MARYLAND

HAGERSTOWN—House of Pain Wrestling Federation at the House of Pain: Leslie Leath-erman beat Jake Davis by reverse decision ... Tate Griffen pinned The Cowboy Kid ... Kurt Keizer pinned The Doc ... John Balsamo beat Malcolm Y ... Scott Vaughn wrestled Carnage to a no-contest ... John Rambo & Skank beat Jerkface & Chuckie Manson ... Aidlean won a three-way match against Morgus the Maniac and Gutterboy ... Fantasia won the battle royal. (04-20-99)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

BALTIMORE—WCW at Baltimore Arena: Juventud Guerrera beat Lizmark Jr. ... Horace beat Norman Smiley ... Scotty Riggs beat Dave "Fit" Finlay ... World tag team champions Billy

Kidman & Rey Misterio Jr. defeated Chris Benoit & Dean Malenko ... Konnan defeated Disco Inferno ... Sting beat "Diamond" Dallas Page by submission ... Bill Goldberg pinned Bam Bam Bigelow ... World champion Ric Flair beat Hollywood Hogan by submission. (03-31-99)

—Frank Vitucci

MASSACHUSETTS

SOMERVILLE—NWA New England TV taping at the Good Times Emporium: The Mercenary beat The Punisher ... Big Larry beat Derek Destiny ... The Intimidators beat Ball Djaka & Vladimir Vampire ... Damon D'archangelo beat Louis Ortiz ... The Long Rider Clutch beat Beau Douglas ... The Power Company wrestled to a no-contest with The New York Posse ... Joel Davis beat Trooper Gilmore ... TV champion Bob Evans beat Tre ... Gunnar Landry beat Bodacious Pretty Boy ... Curtis Slamdwag beat Beau Douglas ... Jeff Mangles & Alex Arion beat Sonic Youth & Derek Destiny ... Knuckles Nelson, Erich Sbraccia, & Dukes Dalton defeated The Punisher & The Lords of Brooklyn ... Gino Martino beat Derek Destiny ... Junior heavyweight champion Jay Jalllett beat Donny Murphy ... Shooter McGrath defeated Rex Lethal ... Jason Rage defeated Joshua Miller. (04-22-99)

—Rich Palladino

NEW JERSEY

SOUTH AMBOY—ECW at St. Mary's High School: Little Guido beat Pablo Marquez ... Danny Doring defeated Skull Von Crush ... Axl Rotten beat Steve Corino ... Spike Dudley won a battle royal ... Super Crazy & Mosco de la Merced beat Taka Michinoku & Yoshihiro Tajiri ... Tag team champions Buh Buh Ray & D-Von Dudley beat Chris Chetti & Nova ... Heavyweight champion Taz beat Spike Dudley ... Tommy Dreamer defeated Justin Credible ... TV champion Rob Van Dam beat Mahoney. (04-23-99)

—Steve Christian

EDISON—ECW at the Expo Center: Nova beat Tony DeVito ... Skull Von Crush beat Spanish Angel ... Justin Credible beat Chris Chetti ... Rod Price beat Tom Marquez ... Super Crazy beat Mosco de la Merced ... Buh Buh Ray & D-Von Dudley beat Amish Roadkill & Danny Doring & Axl Rotten & Mahoney in a three-way dance ... Tommy Dreamer beat Steve Corino ... Heavyweight champion Taz beat Yoshihiro Tajiri ... TV champion Rob Van Dam beat Spike Dudley. (04-02-99)

—Philip Rivera

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—WWF at Madison Square Garden: Bradshaw & Faarooq defeated Skull & Eight-Ball ... Jerry Lawler beat Droz ... Hardcore champion Bob Holly defeated Val Venis ... World tag team champions Kane & X-Pac beat Big Bossman & Test ... Billy Gunn & Jesse James beat Edge & Gangrel and Owen Hart & Jeff Jarrett in a three-way match ... Intercontinental champion The Godfather beat Goldust ... The Undertaker & Mideon beat Ken Shamrock & Mankind ... Al Snow & Tori beat D-Lo Brown & Ivory ... Steve Austin & Paul Wight beat Hunter Hearst Helmsley & The Rock. (04-24-99)

—Frank Vitucci

(Continued on page 50)

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(Continued from page 49)

YONKERS—World Xtreme Wrestling at Lincoln High School: **The Bushwhackers** defeated **The Headshrinkers** ... **George Steele** beat **Thunderfoot** and **Nikolai Volkoff** in a triple threat match (**Bruno Sammartino** was the guest referee) ... **Sal Corrente** beat **Gorgeous Gary** ... **Doink** beat **The New Jersey Devil** ... **Arich** beat **Lucifer Grimm** ... **The Hungarian Barbarian** beat **The Mad Russian** ... **The Love Connection** beat **The Bad Crew**.
(04-17-99)

—Dominick Valenti

NORTH CAROLINA

LENOIR—North American Wrestling Alliance at the American Legion: **Mike Connelly** & **Johnny Ringo** wrestled **The Assassins** to a no-contest ... **James Clontz** beat **Mike Pain** ... **Brian Steel** beat **Scotty McKeever** ... **Jeff Vicktory** beat **Kevin Kirby** by disqualification ... **Randy Sledge** & **Ken Varner** defeated **Kane** & **Able Atoms** for the tag team championship.
(04-24-99)

—Dan Parris

WENTWORTH—AIWF at the Recreation Center: **The Mauler** beat **Kid Thunder** ... **Sweet Daddy** beat **D-Nice** ... **Steve Niles** defeated **Major Havoc** and **Lamont Steel** in a three-way match ... **Terminator X** beat U.S. champion **The Scorpion**, but he refused to accept the belt, saying he was only interested in the heavyweight title ... **Jim Bowlin** defeated **Brandi Wine** in a mixed match ... **Brian Danzig** beat **Robbie Evil**.
(04-16-99)

—Dean Puckett

OHIO

CLEVELAND—ECW at the Agora Theater: **Yoshihiro Tajiri** beat **Little Guido** ... **Chris Chetti** wrestled to a no-contest with **Skull Von Crush** ... **Justin Credible** & **Lance Storm** defeated **Jerry Lynn** & **Super Crazy** ... **New Jack** beat **Mr. Mustafa** ... **Tommy Dreamer** beat **Steve Corino** ... **Buh Buh Ray** & **D-Von Dudley** beat **Rhino Richards** & **Mahoney** ... TV champion **Rob Van Dam** beat **Spike Dudley**.
(04-16-99)

—Karl Stone

CINCINNATI—WWF at Cincinnati Gardens: **Christian Cage**, **Edge**, **Faarooq**, & **Bradshaw** beat **The Disciples of Apocalypse**, **Brian Christopher**, & **Scott Taylor** ... **The Godfather** beat **Tiger Ali Singh** ... Intercontinental champion **Goldust** beat **Mankind** and **Ken Shamrock** in a three-way match ... **Al Snow** beat **Droz** ... **Paul Wight** beat **The Rock** by disqualification ... Hardcore champion **Bob Holly** beat **Gangrel** ... **Billy Gunn** & **Jesse James** beat **Owen Hart** & **Jeff Jarrett** ... **D-Lo Brown** & **Ivory** beat **Val Venis** & **Tori** ... World tag team champions **Kane** & **X-Pac** beat **Big Bossman** & **Hunter Hearst Helmsley**.
(04-10-99)

—Paul Fraser

BLANCHESTER—Heartland Wrestling Association at the Eagles Lodge: **Todd Morton** beat **Matt Stryker** ... **Shark Boy** defeated **Jeremy Jett** ... **Bull Pain** beat **Cody Hawk** ... **The Xtremist** beat **Mad Anthony McMurphy** ... Cruiserweight cham-

pion **Bobby Casanova** (formerly **Bobby Kane**) defeated **Chad Collyer** and **Terik the Great** in a three-way dance ... **Chip Fairway** & **Matt Stryker** beat **Brian Taylor** & **Astin Augustus Ambrose Esq.**
(04-03-99)

—Brady Laber

OKLAHOMA

TULSA—Oklahoma Pro Wrestling at the OPW Arena: **Splash Jackson** beat "Bonecrusher" **Bobby Burns** ... **The Great Bolo** wrestled to a time-limit draw with **Big Daddy Moore** ... **The Original Renegade** beat light heavyweight champion **Tarantula** for the belt ... **Snap** defeated **Bull Schmitt** ... Tag team champions **The Casualties of War** beat **The Sin City Assassins** and **Generation X** in a three-way match ... Heavyweight champion **Rocco Valentino** beat **Thunderwolf** by reverse decision.
(04-24-99)

—Pete Maguire

PENNSYLVANIA

WILKINSBURG—Steel City Wrestling's "Deaf Wrestlefest '99" benefit at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf: **Super Hentai** pinned **Vince Viper** ... **Dynamite Dean** pinned **Nick Crane** ... Heavyweight champion **Cody Michaels** pinned **Preston Steele** ... **The Player** pinned **Dennis Gregory** ... **Awesome Arpin** pinned **Goonberg** ... **Battman** pinned **Vladimir Vampyre** ... **The Dope Show** defeated **Powerhouse Hughes** & **Bison** ... **Slick Rick** pinned **Havoc** ... **Robert Gibson** pinned **Tom Brandt** ... **Dynamite Dean** won a battle royal.
(04-18-99)

—Jeff Gorman

HAMBURG—Pennsylvania Championship Wrestling at the Field House: **Christopher Daniels** pinned **Jeff Peterson** ... **Mr. Ooh La La** beat **Tommy Golden** for the commonwealth title ... **Kodiak Bear** beat **Scott Furie** ... **Glen Osbourne** defeated **Chris Krueger** ... **J.J. Johnson** & **Vincent Goodnite** beat **Persian Prince** & **Sweet Mr. E** ... **El Fuego** pinned **Zack Wyld** ... **Joe E. Legend** beat Americas champion **Flash Flanagan** by disqualification ... **Scott Furie** won a battle royal ... **Flash Flanagan** & **Glen Osbourne** beat tag team champs **Lance Diamond** & **Christopher Daniels** (substituting for **Reckless Youth**) to win the tag team title.
(04-16-99)

—Timothy A. Walker

RHODE ISLAND

PROVIDENCE—WWF Backlash pay-per-view at the Civic Center: **Bradshaw**, **Faarooq**, & **Mideon** defeated **The Brood** when **Bradshaw** pinned **Christian** ... **Al Snow** beat **Bob Holly** for the hardcore title ... Intercontinental champion **The Godfather** pinned **Goldust** ... **Billy Gunn** & **Jesse James** defeated **Owen Hart** & **Jeff Jarrett** ... **Mankind** defeated **Paul Wight** in a boiler room brawl ... **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** pinned **X-Pac** ... **The Undertaker** pinned **Ken Shamrock** ... World champion "Stone-Cold" **Steve Austin** pinned **The Rock**.
(04-25-99)

—Dutch Krewda

PAWTUCKET—Unified Championship Wrestling at the Barton Street Community Center: **Dolo Binswanger** pinned **Nick Nitro** ... **Dr. Heresy** defeated **Danny O'Hannon** ... **Don Juan Desanto** & **Derrick Destiny** beat **The Outcasts** ... **Vertebreaker** pinned **Iceberg** to win the cruiserweight title ... **Butch Petrillo** beat **Mr. Troubleman** by disqualification ... **Draven** beat **T.J. Richter** in a no-disqualification match ... **Bert Centeno** & **Danny Ramirez** wrestled to a time-limit draw with "Mad Dog" **Matt Storm** & **Ivan Zangvine** ... **Gino Martino** beat **Dane** ... **Ebony Blade** beat heavyweight champion **Billy Black** by submission to win the title.
(04-09-99)

—Anthony Rufo

SOUTH CAROLINA

ORANGEBURG—Edisto Pro Wrestling at the High School: **Ice** beat **The Panther** ... **Rick Bambino** beat **The British Banshee** ... **The Super Enforcer** defeated **Lumberjack Lanny** ... **Talon** defeated **Jackhammer Muldoon** ... **Cold Chill** beat **Agent Sam Morton** ... **Scott Sawyer** & **Skull Stevens** beat **The Hot Rods** ... **Uptown Larry D** beat **Randall Owens**.
(04-10-99)

—Dan Parris

TENNESSEE

KINGSPORT—Southern States Wrestling at the Armory: **Joe Brody** wrestled **Mike Cooper** to a no-contest ... **Death and Destruction** beat "Boogie Woogie Man" **Jimmy Valiant** and **Bruiser Graham** ... **The Christian Brothers** defeated tag team champs **Death and Destruction** to win the belts ... **Joe Fillers** beat **Slammin' Sam** ... **War Machine** defeated **Ricky Harrison** in a strap match ... **Frank Parker** beat **Ashley Hudson** ... **Rick Morton** & **Andrea** defeated **Beau James** & **P.J. Sharp** when **Andrea** pinned **Sharp**.
(04-25-99)

—Fay Ferguson

CHATTANOOGA—WCW at the UTC Arena: **Vampiro** defeated **Erik Watts** ... **Brad Armstrong** beat **Dave "Fit" Finlay** ... **Scotty Riggs** defeated **Dave Taylor** ... **Billy Kidman** beat **Ernest Miller** ... **Perry Saturn** beat **Scott Norton** ... **Raven** defeated **Hak** ... **Sting** defeated **Bam Bam Bigelow**.
(04-23-99)

—John Grimsley

TEXAS

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS—NWA Southwest at the Texas Indoor Speedway: **The Blackbird Posse** beat NWA Texas tag team champions **Moody's Mob** by disqualification ... **Khri's Germany** pinned **Canyon** in a falls-count-anywhere match ... **Kurt Reigns** pinned **Tejas** in a lumberjack strap match ... **Kit Carson** wrestled to a double-disqualification with **Awesome Kong** ... **Cedric of Hollywood** pinned **Chef** ... **Trint Atkins** pinned **Muleskinner Red**.
(04-02-99)

—John T. Binder

VIRGINIA

BIG STONE GAP—Southern States Wrestling at Carnes Gym: **Mike Cooper** pinned **The Super**

Masked Man ... Tim Cooper beat Chuck Jones ... Appalachian champion **Iron Cross** beat **Rob Valor** ... Tracey Smothers won a three-way dance against **Danny Christian** and **Roger Anderson** ... **G-Dog** beat heavyweight champion **Beau James** by reverse decision. (04-16-99)

—Fay Ferguson

CANA—New Dimension Wrestling at the St. Paul School: **Jeff Knotts** pinned **Roger Hamm** ... **David Isley** defeated **The Chiropractor** ... **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** defeated **Manny Fernandez** & **Rick Link** ... **Foxy Lady** pinned **Outcast** ... **Bad Boy Buck** defeated **Little Leatherface** in a midjet match ... **Toad** pinned heavyweight champ **Rikki Nelson** in a non-title match. (04-10-99)

—Chris Plano

FAIRFAX—WCW at the Patriot Center: **Juventud Guerrera** beat **Lizmark Jr.** ... **Dave "Fit" Finlay** beat **Scotty Riggs** ... **Horace** defeated **Norman Smiley** ... World tag team champions **Billy Kidman** & **Rey Misterio Jr.** beat **Chris Benoit** & **Dean Malenko** when **Misterio** pinned **Malenko** ... **Konnor** defeated **Disco Inferno** by submission ... **Bill Goldberg** pinned **Meng** ... **Sting** pinned **Bam Bam Bigelow** ... World champion **Ric Flair** beat **Hollywood Hogan** by disqualification. (04-02-99)

—Ray Ney

WASHINGTON

SEATTLE—WWF at Key Arena: **Goldust** & **The Blue Meanie** defeated **Skull** & **Eight-Ball** ... **D-Lo Brown** defeated **Al Snow** ... **Big Bossman** & **Test** defeated **Gangrel** & **Edge** ... Intercontinental champion **The Godfather** beat **Tiger Ali Singh** ... **Paul Wight** defeated **The Rock** by disqualification ... **Kane** beat **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** by disqualification ... **Ken Shamrock** & **Mankind** beat **Bradshaw** & **Faarooq** ... **Ivory** beat **Jacquelyn** and **Tori** in a three-way match ... Hardcore champion **Bob Holly** beat **Val Venis** ... **Billy Gunn** & **Jesse James** defeated **Owen Hart** & **Jeff Jarrett**. (04-15-99)

—David & John Baumer

TACOMA—WCW Spring Stampede pay-per-view at the Tacoma Dome: **Juventud Guerrera** pinned **Blitzkrieg** ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** pinned **Hak** ... **Scotty Riggs** pinned **Mikey Whipwreck** ... **Konnor** defeated **Disco Inferno** ... Cruiserweight champion **Rey Misterio Jr.** pinned **Billy Kidman** ... **Chris Benoit** & **Dean Malenko** defeated **Perry Saturn** & **Raven** when **Malenko** pinned **Raven** ... **Scott Steiner** pinned **Booker T** in the finals of the U.S. title tournament ... **Bill Goldberg** pinned **Kevin Nash** ... "Diamond" **Dallas Page** defeated World champion **Ric Flair**, **Hollywood Hogan**, and **Sting** in a four-corners match to win the World title when he pinned **Flair** (**Randy Savage** was the special guest referee). (04-11-99)

—Michael Carpenter

WEST VIRGINIA

NUTTER FORT—Mason Dixon Wrestling at the R.W. High School Auditorium: **The Nevada Crippler** and **Ox Williams** co-won a battle royal ... **The Nevada Crippler** & **Stick Keller** defeated **The Outcast** & **Chick Scott** ... Tri-state champion **Punchy McGee** defeated lightweight champion **The Bounty Hunter** ... **Scotty McKeever** defeated **Bob Brown** ... **The Outcast** defeated **Chick Scott** ... **Mass**

Destruction beat **El Guano I & II** to win the tag team title. (04-21-99)

—M. Harvey Sennett Jr.

WEIRTON—SCW's "King Of West Virginia" tournament at the Millsop Community Center: **First round:** **Shirley Doe** pinned **Vince Viper** ... **The Player** defeated **Vladimir Vampyre** ... **Mr. Insanity** pinned **Jeff Cannon** ... **Dennis Gregory** received a bye ... **Semifinals:** **Player** pinned **Mr. Insanity** ... **Gregory** pinned **Doe** ... **Finals:** **Gregory** pinned **Player** to win the tournament ... **In non-tournament bouts:** **Awesome Arpin** pinned **Goonberg** ... **Robert Gibson** pinned **Lord Zoltan**. (04-17-99)

—Jeff Gorman

BUCKHANNON—Mason Dixon Wrestling at the Upshur County Armory: **Jimmy Valiant** beat **The Masked Assassin** ... Tri-State champion **Punchy McGee** defeated **Mike Morgan** ... **Scotty Blaze** beat **Scott E. Lime** ... **Joey Austin** defeated **The Outkast** by disqualification ... **El Guanos** defeated **Brute Force** to win the tag team title ... **Jamie Harris** beat **Sean Styles** ... **Bob Brown** pinned **Chick Scott**. (04-02-99)

—M. Harvey Sennett Jr.

INTERNATIONAL

CANADA

MONTREAL, QUEBEC—Northern Championship Wrestling at the NDR Arena: **Steven The Sweet Boy** beat **Dennis Sensation** ... **Scotty Blaze** defeated **El Diablero Jr.** ... **Max Fury** defeated **Ben the King** to win the TV title ... **Wild Thing** beat **Access Denied** by countout ... **Golem the Giant** defeated **Ivan the Imitator** to regain the Inter-city title ... **The Dream Warriors** wrestled to a no-contest with **Deadly Venom** ... **Eric Shelley** beat **TNT** ... **Dream Killer** beat **Marc the Grizzly** for the Quebec title. (04-24-99)

—Bertrand Hebert

GERMANY

OBERHAUSEN—WWF at the Arena: **X-Pac** beat "Brooklyn Brawler" **Steve Lombardi** ... **Val Venis** & **Jacquelyn** beat **D-Lo Brown** & **Ivory** ... **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** beat **Kane** ... Intercontinental champion **Goldust** beat **Jesse James** ... Hardcore champion **Bob Holly** beat **Al Snow** ... **The Undertaker** beat **Ken Shamrock** ... **Billy Gunn** beat **Gangrel** ... **Owen Hart** & **Jeff Jarrett** beat **Christian Cage** & **Edge** ... **Paul Wight** defeated **Big Bossman** ... World champion **Steve Austin** pinned **The Rock**. (04-01-99)

—Franz Mueller

JAPAN

TOKYO—New Japan at the Tokyo Dome: **Satoshi Kojima** & **Hiroyoshi Tenzan** beat **Yuji Nagata** & **Manabu Nakanishi** ... **Tatsuhito Takaiwa** beat **Minoru Tanaka** ... **The Great Sasuke** & **Jushin Liger** beat IWGP junior tag team champions **Kendo Ka Shin** & **Dr. Wagner Jr.** for the belts ... IWGP junior heavyweight champion **Koji Kanemoto** beat **Shinjiro Otani** ... **Kazuo Yamazaki** & **Kazuyuki Fujita** beat **Alexander Otsuka** & **Yuki Ishikawa** ... IWGP tag team champions **Shiro Koshinaka** & **Kensuke Sasaki** beat **Genichiro Tenryu** & **Tatsumi Fujinami** ... IWGP heavyweight champion **Kelji Muto** beat **Don Frye** ... **Masa Chono** wrestled to a draw with **Atsushi**

Onita in an electrified explosive barbed-wire match when neither man could answer a 10-count. (04-10-99)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

YOKOHAMA—Gaea at the Bunka Gym: **Chikayo Nagashima** won an elimination match over **Sugar Saito**, **Toshie Uematsu**, **Rie**, **Sakura Hirota**, and **Kaori Nakayama** ... **Toshiyo Yamada** & **Kaoru** defeated **Mima Shimoda** & **Etsuko Mita** ... **Meiko Satomura** & **Sonoko Kato** beat **Aja Kong** & **Mayumi Ozaki** ... **Lioness Asuka** defeated **Chigusa Nagayo** to gain control of the promotion. (04-04-99)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

MEXICO

MEXICO CITY—EMLL TV taping at Arena Coliseo: **La Flecha** & **Sombra de Plata** beat **Pugaz** & **Sangre Azteca** ... **Guerrero** beat **Futuro** & **Damian El Guerrero** defeated **Olimpus** & **Mano Negra Jr.** ... **Blue Panther** & **Ultimo Guerrero** defeated **Fuerza Guerrera** & **Rey Bucanero** ... **Emilio Charles Jr.** & **Tony Rivera** beat **Violencia** & **El Satanico** ... **Mr. Niebla** & **Atlantico** beat **Starman** & **Felino** ... **Shocker** & **Astro Rey Jr.** defeated **Karloff Lagarde Jr.** & **Apolo Dantes** ... **Panther** & **Guerrero** beat **Charles Jr.** & **Rivera** ... **Niebla** & **Atlantico** beat **Shocker** & **Astro Rey Jr.** ... **Panther** & **Guerrero** beat **Niebla** & **Atlantico** ... **Negro Casas** & **El Hijo del Santo** beat CMLL tag team champs **Scorpio Jr.** & **Bestia Salvaje** by disqualification to win the title. (04-02-99)

—Pedro Lorenzo

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY OCTOBER

CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES—NWA at the Olympic Auditorium: **Ripper Collins** wrestled to a draw with **Mr. X** ... **The Hangman** beat **Larry Evans** ... **Chris Beskeas** beat **The Alaskan** ... **The Destroyer** beat **Wild Bill Cody** ... **Ray Stevens** beat **Red Bastien** in a best-of-three-falls match to retain the U.S. title ... **Cowboy Bob Ellis** defeated **Freddie Blassie**. (10-10-64)

—PWI archives

FLORIDA

MIAMI—NWA at the Miami Beach Convention Center: **Rick Gibson** & **Jim Golden** beat **Jim Dillon** & **Beauregard** ... **Tony Charles** & **Eddie Graham** beat **Mr. Eito** & **Mitsu Hata** ... **The Superstars** beat **Omar** & **Cyclone Negro** ... **King Curtis** beat **Mike George** ... **Mark Lewin** beat **Roger Kirby** ... **Rocky Johnson** & **Dusty Rhodes** beat **Larry Hennig** & **Bob Roop**. (10-01-75)

—PWI archives

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—WWWF at Madison Square Garden: **Black Demon** defeated **Joe Turco** ... **Little Beaver** & **Joey Russell** defeated **Pee Wee Adams** & **Frenchy Lamont** ... **Buddy Wolfe** defeated **Jack Slade** ... **Chief Jay Strongbow** defeated **Chuck O'Connor** ... **Ray Stevens** beat **El Olimpico** ... **Sonny King** and **The Spoiler** wrestled to a draw ... **Bruno Sammartino** & **Pedro Morales** defeated **Toru Tanaka** & **Mr. Fuji** by disqualification. (10-16-72)

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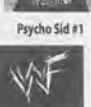
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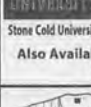
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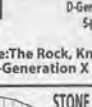
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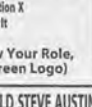
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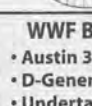
• Kane



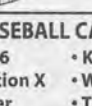
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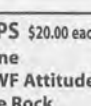
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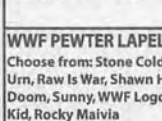
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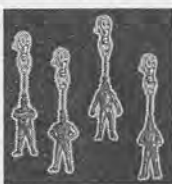
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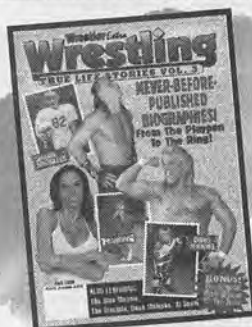
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ringside

(Continued from page 9)

told him or his agent otherwise, he still considered himself an employee of ECW.

But with Douglas admitting that his agent has opened discussions with the WWF, it is almost certain that "The Franchise" will exit ECW, which, believe it or not, could be beneficial to both parties. Douglas would be able to finish his career in the biggest promotion in the world, while ECW would be able to elevate some of its younger stars—men such as **Justin Credible**, **Lance Storm**, and **Rob Van Dam**—into heavyweight title matches.

Speaking of contracts, **Chris Jericho's** contract with WCW is up in July. Both the WWF and WCW covet his skills, but Jericho still hasn't made it official where he will continue his career once

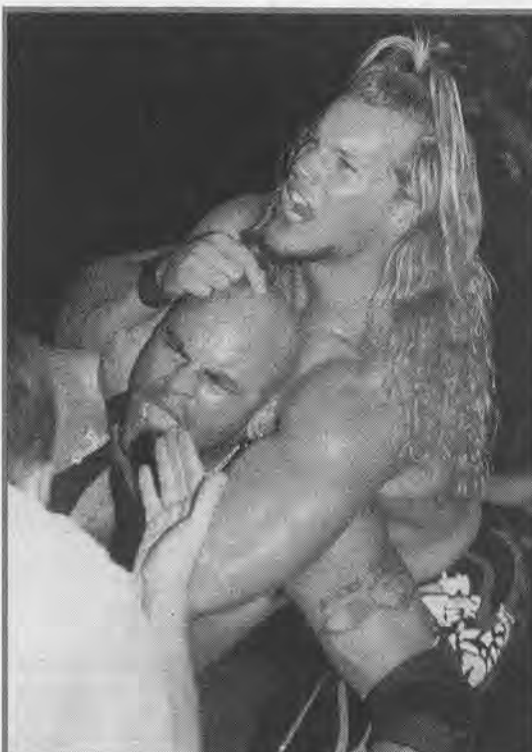
his current deal expires.

Ever the tease, Jericho has hinted strongly at which company he will be working for come the end of the summer. "I've actually had a chance to watch some of the Monday night wars during my recovery time (Jericho was nursing a sprained ankle), and I've made some relevant observations over the past week that have greatly influenced my thought process," he wrote on his Web site this spring.

In my opinion, it only makes sense that Jericho will sign with the WWF. During his convalescence, *Raw* continued to slaughter *Nitro* in the ratings, and the WWF plans to add another weekly show on UPN this fall.

And how's this for blatant conjecture—I think Jericho would be the perfect catalyst for a DX reunion. He's one of the few wrestlers out there with in-ring ability and charisma comparable to the original "Showstopper," **Shawn Michaels**.

Promoters have hailed the "Break The Barrier" card held at the ECW Arena on May 15 such a success that there has been talk of making it a yearly event. This year's show was highlighted by a Steel City Wrestling "Lord Of The Dance" three-way match among **Mike Quackenbush**, **Don Montoya**, and **Lou Marconi**. "Break The Barrier" featured independent stars from various promotions around the world. The inaugural event was considered by many in attendance to be the best indy show of the year.



Could Chris Jericho's days in WCW be numbered? It sure looks that way. While "Lion Heart" was sidelined with an injury this spring, the WWF just might have captured his attention.

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x-pac/kane

(Continued from page 21)

more like an arranged marriage.

"Why complain?" mused X-Pac. "We both have a belt, and we're successful. Okay, so there's always some strain being in the ring together because you never know what Kane might do. Then again, you never know what I might do. We're two volatile people."

These outcasts have somehow (miraculously?) found each other. Their biographies read like sequels to *Mommie Dearest*.

Kane has been rejected by Chyna, who promised to raise him to glory before ending their relationship with a perfectly placed chair shot to the back. Kane has also been rebuffed by Vince McMahon, who castigated him publicly for being "the dumbest champion in the history of the WWF."

X-Pac, meanwhile, has been betrayed by both Chyna and Hunter Hearst Helmsley; he has

seen his beloved DeGeneration X clique dismantled like the weaker of two warring Mafioso families.

The upshot of all this rejection is two wrestlers with tenuous self-confidence and even less trust of others.

"Is it any wonder they're wary of each other?" wondered Jim Ross. "For every handshake the two of them have exchanged, there's been a stab in the back. I guess we should just be pleased they have a working relationship. Maybe that's enough to keep them successful together."

The 1973 Oakland A's did it, as did the 1977 New York Yankees. Both were teams with great skill and athleticism ... but bad blood coursing through the clubhouse. Wrestling is different, particularly when the "team" consists of just two players. In the X-Pac/Kane partnership, there is no buffer, no manager or silent partner to act as psychologist when things go haywire between the two.

"They desperately need a stabilizing factor," added Ross. "Without a guiding force, I don't see much of a long-term future here."

Don't expect a Shawn Michaels or Paul Bearer to assume that role. According to reliable WWF sources, one WWF personality has approached Kane and X-Pac about being their manager. Word has it, however, that neither wrestler was particularly receptive to this person's offer.

So Kane and X-Pac will march on, each to his wildly uneven beat. They win in less than harmonious fashion, then they shower and go their separate ways. Is this a winning formula? One can only hope that in the bizarre, insane worlds of Kane and X-Pac, distrust and discord are the keys to wrestling greatness. □

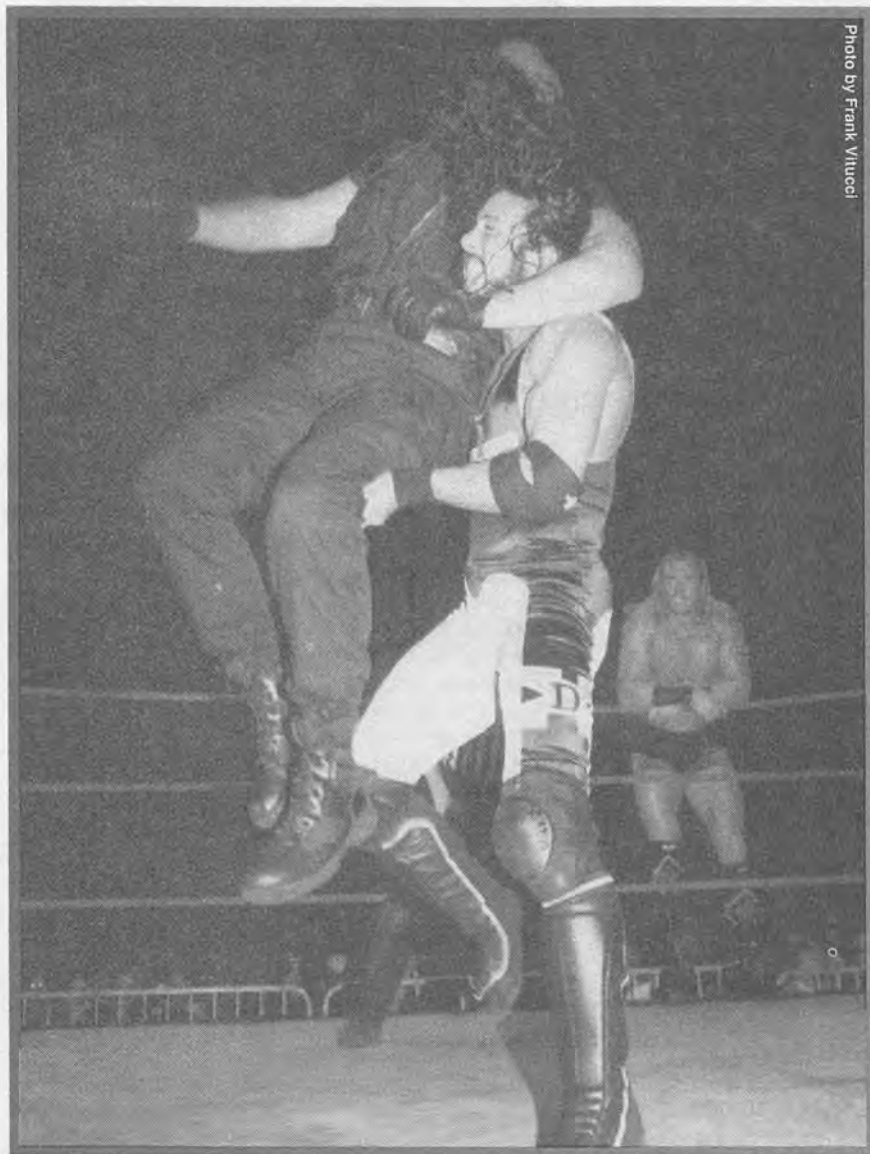


Photo by Frank Muccel

It's difficult to blame X-Pac (shown against Bossman) too much for being wary of trusting a partner. He's been burned too many times.

(Continued from page 34)

One can't help but wonder why Saturn (battling Bigelow) would allow himself to again be manipulated by Raven. Hasn't he learned his lesson yet?



he seemed more upbeat. The fans quickly sided with him. So did Saturn, who discovered a kinder, gentler Raven.

Still, one has to wonder: What's really going on here?

"Three months is too short a time for a person to change, if change is possible at all," Dr. Basil said. "From my point of view, Raven has deep-seeded issues that go all the way back to his childhood, which is the source of most adult psychological problems. Perhaps those three months away from the ring gave him a fresher perspective on life and allowed him to think things through, but a man who tries to solve deep psychological problems in three months is much like an alcoholic who slams down his last drink and says, 'That's it, I'm never having another.' These problems are not so easily cured. In my opin-

ion, it's only a matter of time before the old Raven resurfaces. He has to. The old Raven is hidden just slightly below the surface."

If he's hidden at all. Perhaps the old Raven isn't even a few months away. Perhaps he's already there: using Saturn, playing with his mind, getting Saturn to do what he wants him to do, such as helping him win the WCW World tag team title.

"No doubt, the old Raven was effective for a while in The Flock, but all of his cronies eventually turned against him," said a WCW insider. "Perhaps Raven realized that his old methods of control weren't working, so he decided to try a more subtle means of mind control. In other words, rather than being so overt about controlling Saturn, he's doing it in a milder way. Saturn is still his puppet, but the strings are invisible. Invisible to

everyone, that is, except Raven."

If true, this is a frightening prospect for Saturn. On the one hand, he'll never be his own man. He'll always be under Raven's control. On the other hand, he'll never realize he's under Raven's control. There is no Flock to make it obvious. There's only this one question: How could Raven have changed so quickly?

Dr. Basil's answer: He couldn't have.

As for Saturn, he's too confused to realize what's going on. He's a man who's wearing a dress ... and loving it. He's like the abused wife who keeps going back to the abusive husband.

In this unusual circumstance, not just one man needs to be cured. Both men need to be cured.

But only one man—Raven—is doing damage. □

press conference

(Continued from page 23)

one enlightened male among us!

GODFATHER: Great! That leaves one for me. Go downstairs, baby. We can have a little moonlit supper later. *(The remaining lady leaves.)*

HUNTER: I hope you're proud of yourself, Mr. Godfather! Women of my generation spent all their youth picketing and protesting to gain equal rights. Now, 20 years later, you're taking us back to the dark ages by distorting the minds of today's young people!

GODFATHER: Hold on there, missy. My understanding is that you were protesting to give women the right to do what they choose. Don't get all high and mighty on me!

HUNTER: There are still such things as equality, respect, and decency in this world, despite chauvinists like you, Godfather!

BURKETT: Let's take a step back here. This is *PWI*, not *CNN*. We're supposed to be talking about The Godfather's wrestling career. How does it feel to be the Intercontinental champion?

GODFATHER: Fantastic! Everything's startin' to come together for The Godfather. I've paid my dues for the past 10 years, knowing I'd be rewarded someday. Finally, here it is: The Godfather's time!

BURKETT: It's been quite a journey for you. You've competed under a number of identities in World Class, the USWA, and the WWF. Until now, you were best known as Kama The Supreme Fighting Machine. You had an impressive record, yet you received few title shots. Why was that?

GODFATHER: My trouble was that I was too intense. All I thought about was whoopin' somebody's [butt] or forcing somebody to squeal for mercy. I paid too much



Always a fierce competitor (something to which Goldust can certainly attest), Godfather has shown that he has what it takes to defend his championship.

attention to the athletic aspect of wrestling and not enough to entertaining the fans.

BURKETT: That also gave you the reputation of being a mercenary. You were under the tutelage of Ted DiBiase in the Million-Dollar Corporation for a while, and that's one reason Faarooq asked you to join The Nation a couple years ago.

GODFATHER: Maybe I didn't win many titles, but people knew what I was about. I've always attracted

more attention in the dressing room than in front of the cameras.

BURKETT: Until now.

GODFATHER: *(Laughs)* That's right, brother. The Nation splittin' up was the best thing that ever happened to me. There was always a power struggle goin' on, whether it was Faarooq, Ahmed Johnson, The Rock, or D-Lo. I never had any interest in bein' a leader or tellin' other people what to do. I'm into doin' my own thang.



Don't be fooled by Godfather's pimpin' ways: Once the bell rings and the competition begins, he's about as tough as any man in the WWF.

BURKETT: Have you calmed down enough to ask a question, Liz?

HUNTER: Yes. If nothing else, I am a professional. Godfather, let me ask you about your current "thang," as you call it. Did it take you long to develop this disgusting persona, or was it natural for you?

GODFATHER: Baby, you sure got some spunk. I hate spunk. Fact is, I just loosened up. I'm the same guy I've always been, except I'm letting the fun-lovin' aspect of my personality show through. That's always been a part of me. I just repressed it for the sake of staying focused.

HUNTER: For the sake of all women, could you try to repress it again?

GODFATHER: No way. I learned a valuable lesson. Guys like

Superstar Graham and Muhammad Ali learned it. The Rock learned it. You see, it's just as important to entertain the crowd as it is to win a match. After all, the masses pay for the tickets. And if the people really get on your side, they can give you the adrenaline rush to do stuff you never thought possible. Like me winning the Intercontinental belt.

BURKETT: There is a fear, however, that you may be giving up too much for the sake of showmanship. Some people say you won the Intercontinental title from Goldust on a fluke. I don't think that would've been said if you were still known as Kama. I also noticed that you have a new finishing maneuver called the ... soul train, or something like that.

GODFATHER: Use your imagination, man.

BURKETT: I'll try to avoid that, as long as this is a family magazine. With this move, you run in place for almost 10 seconds to build momentum, you let loose with some locomotive sounds, and then you finally avalanche your opponent in the corner. That's a very risky finisher, especially if you're using it just to rev up the crowd.

GODFATHER: It's showmanship, my friend. That's why the people love me. I wouldn't be The Godfather without it.

BURKETT: Point well-taken. Thanks for the hospitality, Godfather.

GODFATHER: No sweat, my man. Enjoy the rest of your night in Vegas.

HUNTER: Let's get out of here and find Frank. □

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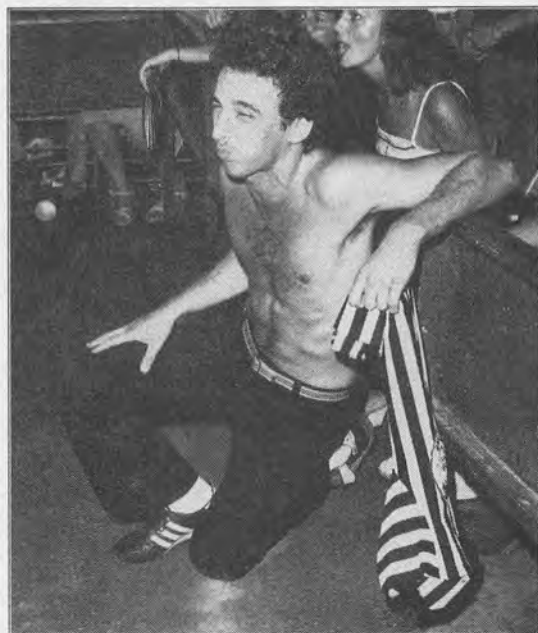


time capsules



"OH MY GOD!"

No, Joey Styles didn't call this match, but maybe he should have. Jeep Swenson, who was almost as big as a Jeep, never had a problem running over his competition. Let's just hope that the "accident victim" in this picture had insurance.



SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE ...

Fonzie wasn't always known as "The Manager Of Champions." Before his days in ECW, he was simply known as referee Bill Alfonso, an unassuming, unbiased official. As that physique indicates, only Fonzie's nickname has changed.

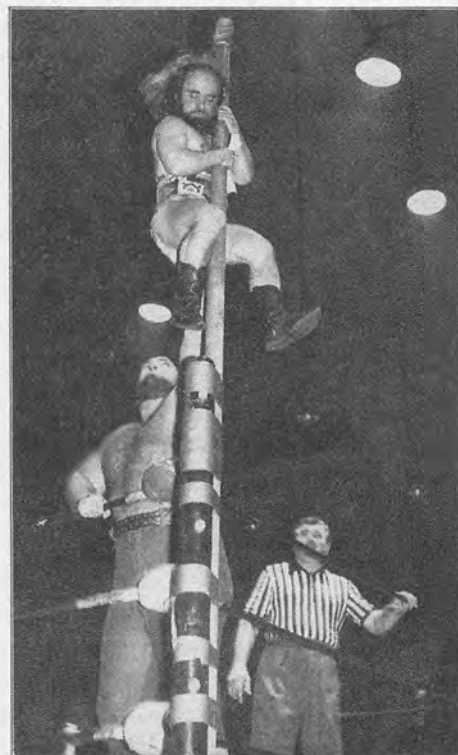


BUDDHA POWER

The tradition of Zen has always been held in high regard by the Japanese people. It wasn't any different for Tokyo Tom, who made sure to pay homage to Buddha before his matches.

WHO NEEDS A RAINBOW?

Lord Littlebrook might not be a leprechaun, but he did help Jos LeDuc retrieve a pot of gold—well, a \$5,000 check in this case. LeDuc and Littlebrook, the last men standing in this 20-man battle royal, decided to split the earnings.



Every month, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* will pore through its massive photo collection to bring you some of the most unique photographs the mat world has ever seen!



"SOMEBODY CALL A DOCTOR. WAIT—I AM A DOCTOR!"

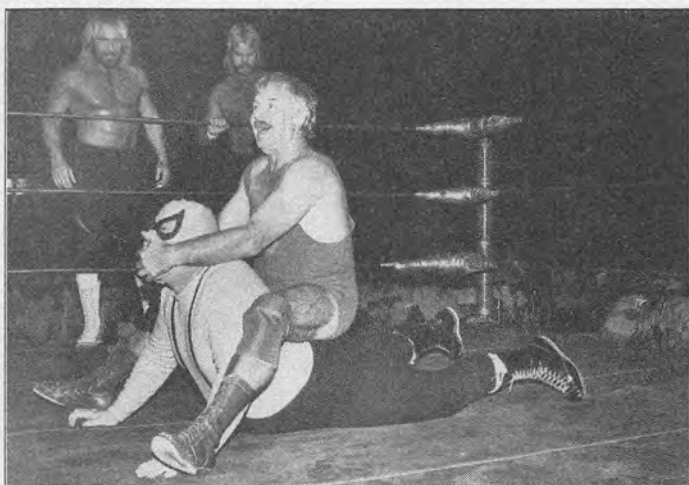
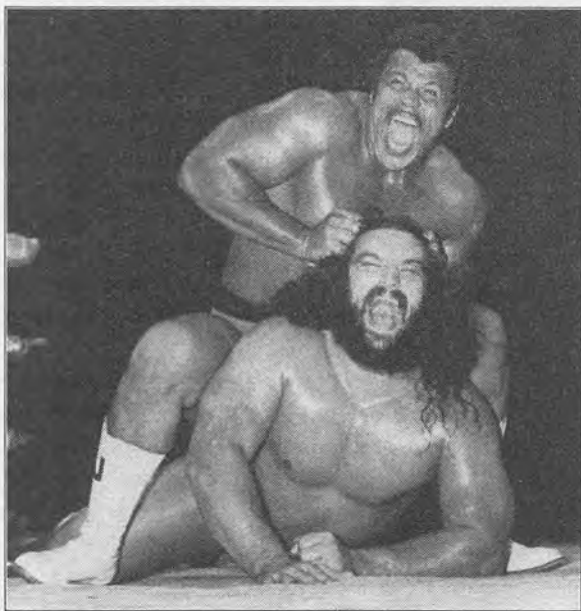
The Masked Medic was in such bad shape after taking a spill out of the ring that he couldn't even tend to his own wounds. His condition deteriorated even further when he got the ringside physician's bill.

"AMAZING—THIS HOLD ACTUALLY WORKS!"

No one was more shocked than "Roughhouse" Sonny Fargo when he found that his version of the camel clutch was doing some damage to The Assassin. Even The Fabulous Ones—Steve Keirn and Stan Lane—seem amused at the masked man's predicament.

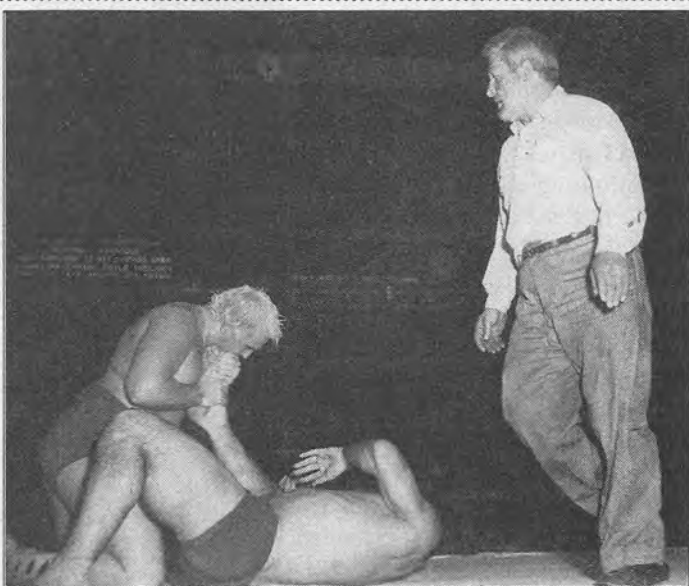
SCALP MASSAGE?

It must be a scalp massage, right? Rocky Johnson, father of The Rock, never would have pulled someone's hair during a match! Well, Bruiser Brody might disagree, and he would use this picture as evidence.



FOOT FOR THOUGHT

Jerry Graham must've been one hungry son-of-a-gun if he was willing to chomp down on the big toe of Antonino Rocca. Four-star dining it's not, but when you wrestle barefoot, you leave yourself open to such "taste tests."





By Mike Spillane

the JAPAN REPORT

THE GIANT BABA Memorial Show at the Tokyo Dome on May 2 will no doubt be remembered as the largest card in the history of All-Japan Pro Wrestling. Even more staggering than the attendance figure (approximately 65,000), though, was the defeat of Triple Crown champion **Vader** at the hands of **Mitsuharu Misawa**. After 18 minutes of hard-hitting action, Misawa used a series of his trademark running elbow strikes to the head to put Vader down for the count. It marked the beginning of his fifth reign as Triple Crown champion.

Another bout at the Baba Memorial saw the returning **Toshiaki Kawada** defeat **Hiroshi Hase**. Kawada had been out of action since breaking his arm in a match against Misawa on January 22. A six-man tag on the card, which featured the unusual team of **Hayabusa**, **Tiger Mask IV**, and **The Great Sasuke**, raised some eyebrows as Sasuke wore his International Wrestling Grand Prix junior tag team belt to the ring. All IWGP titles are defended in New Japan, the chief rival to All-Japan, so Sasuke's actions created some rumblings both backstage and among fans.

Following the death of AJPW President Baba in January, the company had to be restructured, and the results are finally evident. Misawa has become the president, with Kawada and **Mitsuo Momota** being named the two vice presidents. Misawa has gone public with his intentions to work with other promotions, and the recent lineup at the Tokyo Dome certainly substantiated that claim. What everyone wants to know, however, is whether All-

Japan will agree to work with New Japan, a pairing that would be comparable to a domestic agreement between the WWF and WCW.

To that end, New Japan star and current IWGP heavyweight champion **Keiji Muto** has expressed interest in facing a number of All-Japan's top athletes, most notably Misawa and Kawada. Tabloid newspapers and wrestling newsletters have been buzzing with reports that Misawa has been talking regularly with New Japan's **Masa**

Chono about the future of the two companies and the possible co-promotional shows that could follow.

While many questions go unanswered in regard to this story, one thing is certain: Drastic change will be slow in coming to the traditional world of *puroresu* . Years of animosity must be put aside before the two biggest promotions in the Orient will be able to start working together.

The WAR promotion issued two odd statements in recent weeks, the first of which was the announcement of the formation of a new tag team consisting of **Genichiro Tenryu** and **Tokyo Magnum**. Even more outrageous than this weird duo is a challenge sent out to WCW on behalf of Tenryu. Apparently, for the seventh anniversary show for the WAR group, Tenryu wants to face none other than current WCW mainstay **Bill Goldberg** for the J-1 Rikidozan title. Neither Goldberg nor WCW had responded as of press time.

The tremendously popular women's organization ArSION has entered into a formal working agreement with **Ultimo Dragon's** Toryumon promotion. In the coming weeks, ArSION's top athletes will travel to Mexico to appear on Toryumon shows there. After a brief stint with Toryumon, ArSION wrestlers will also compete for AAA in Mexico. The group will be back in Japan in time for cards in Osaka and Tokyo for a card at Korakuen Hall and then the annual "Queens" tournament.

Super Delfin's new promotion, Osaka Pro Wrestling, debuted with a cast of defecting wrestlers from Michinoku Pro, some new talent, and a few Luchadores as well. Using a roster that features the likes of **Masato Yakushiji**, **Masaru Seno**, **Dick Togo**, and **Violencia**, Osaka Pro is set for an ambitious tour of the country through the summer. The coming weeks will prove to be a difficult testing ground for this new company as it begins to examine its staying power on the already-crowded Japanese independent scene.

Soo da, sayonara! □



IWGP heavyweight champ Keiji Muto is hoping his promotion, New Japan, works out an agreement with All-Japan so he can defend his belt against that federation's top stars.



By John Molinaro

the MEXICO REPORT

IN THE BIGGEST Mexican defection so far this year, veteran **El Felino** jumped from EMLL to AAA on April 18, when he debuted for his new promotion in Zapopan. Felino was reportedly upset with EMLL because officials decided to send fellow *tecnico* **Shocker** to this year's "Top Of The Super Junior" tournament, which is hosted by New Japan Pro Wrestling. Last year, Felino competed in the annual event, the premier showcase of the top junior heavyweights in the world, and felt slighted that EMLL sent Shocker in his place.

Shocker competed in the tournament with fellow EMLL superstar and current CMLL light heavyweight champion **Dr. Wagner Jr.** ... Two of the key results from Zapopan saw **Heavy Metal** beat **Kickboxer**, and **Los Atomicos Juniors** (**Perro Aguayo Jr.**, **La Parka Jr.**, **Blue Demon Jr.**, and **Mascara Sagrada Jr.**) capture the Mexican National Atomicos (eight-man tag) title from **Los Vatos Locos**.

In other AAA news, **Mil Mascaras** and his brother **Dos Caras** have been appearing on house shows as of late ... **Canek** and **Cibernético** continue to feud. The two battled in a bloody cage match on April 11 ... **Perro Aguayo** has been forging on in his retirement tour. His last match in the promotion was to have taken place at the annual TripleMania spectacular on June 11 in Ciudad Madero ... The Kickboxer vs. Heavy Metal feud also

rages on. Those two went to war in a chain match on April 20 in Leon ... Newcomer **El Texano** is feuding with **Perro Aguayo**.

Over in EMLL, CMLL heavyweight champion **Rayo de Jalisco Jr.** has been sitting on the sidelines since suffering a cracked vertebra in his neck several months ago. Doctors have told him that the earliest he can return to the ring is November. Even though Jalisco has been unable to compete, officials have yet to strip him of the title ... A return date to Arena Mexico, the promotion's home base, has been pushed back indefinitely. The high crime rate in the neighborhood sur-

rounding the arena has made EMLL officials reluctant to run shows there. The last card at Arena Mexico was held on March 12.

Ringo Mendoza defeated **Blue Panther** on April 27 in Mexico City to retain his CMLL middleweight title. That same night, veteran *rudo* **Americo Rocca** defeated **Kid Guzman** in a hair vs. hair match ... **Black Warrior** defeated **Olimpico** to retain the NWA light heavyweight title on April 21 in Acapulco.

Grupo Revolucion's **Bombero Infernal** retained his IWRG middleweight title against **Raffi El Salsero** on April 25 in Naucalpan. One week earlier, Bombero defeated **Fire Man** in a hair vs. mask match and thus forced Fire Man to unmask ... **Pirata Morgan** defeated **Mascara Sagrada** to retain his IWC heavyweight title on April 11 in Naucalpan. Morgan wasn't so lucky 10 days later, however, as he lost a hair vs. mask match to Sagrada in Aguascalientes and had his head shaved as a result ... **Dragon Kid** dropped the NWA welterweight title to

Ultimo Dragon protege **Judo Suwa** in Kawasaki, Japan, while on tour for the Toryumon promotion this spring ... Japanese superstar **The Great Sasuke** is rumored to be coming in for a brief tour ... Talk of *tecnico* **Mickey Segura** leaving the promotion to join ECW has died down.

Mora Promotions drew a sellout crowd of 5,500 at Auditorio Municipal in Tijuana on April 9. In the main event, **Rey Misterio Jr.** and **Konnor** defeated **Psicosis** and **Rey Misterio Sr.** Two weeks later, **El Hijo del Santo** teamed with **Brazo de Plata** to defeat **Rey Misterio Sr.** and **Villano III** in the main event. On the undercard, the WWF's **Giant Silva** and **Atlantis** defeated **Apolo Dantes**, **Universo Dos Mil**, and **Mascara Ano Dos Mil** in a handicap match. □



El Felino is an EMLL superstar no longer. He made the jump to AAA reportedly because of a dispute he had with EMLL officials.

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

TOP 10

- 1 THE UNDERTAKER**
328, parts unknown
(7) WWF World champion
- 2 STEVE AUSTIN**
252, Victoria, TX
(1) No. 2 contender: WWF World title
- 3 KEVIN NASH**
356, Detroit, MI
(-) WCW World champion
- 4 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
(3) No. 2 contender: WCW World title
- 5 MITSU HARU MISAWA**
228, Ashikaga, Japan
(-) All-Japan Triple Crown champion
- 6 THE ROCK**
272, Miami, FL
(4) No. 3 contender: WWF World title
- 7 KEIJI MUTO**
245, Yamanashi, Japan
(-) IWGP heavyweight champion
- 8 TAZ**
248, Red Hook, NY
(8) ECW heavyweight champion
- 9 RICK STEINER**
248, Detroit, MI
(-) WCW TV champion
- 10 THE GODFATHER**
340, Las Vegas, NV
(10) WWF Intercontinental champion



Sting

TAG TEAMS

- 1 KANE & X-PAC**
Combined weight: 557 pounds
(1) WWF World tag team champions
- 2 PERRY SATURN & RAVEN**
Combined weight: 469 pounds
(6) WCW World tag team champions
- 3 BUH BUH RAY & D-VON DUDLEY**
Combined weight: 585 pounds
(3) ECW tag team champions
- 4 SHIRO KOSHINAKA & KENSUKE SASAKI**
Combined weight: 458 pounds
(7) IWGP International tag team champions
- 5 D-LO BROWN & MARK HENRY**
Combined weight: 718 pounds
(-) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 6 CHRIS BENOIT & DEAN MALENKO**
Combined weight: 434 pounds
(8) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 7 JUN AKIYAMA & KENTA KOBASHI**
Combined weight: 491 pounds
(4) All-Japan International tag team champions
- 8 BRADSHAW & FAAROOQ**
Combined weight: 600 pounds
(-) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 9 JEFF & MATT HARDY**
Combined weight: 422 pounds
(-) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 10 AXL ROTTEN & MAHONEY**
Combined weight: 663 pounds
(10) No. 1 contenders: ECW tag title

WCW

World Champion:

KEVIN NASH

(4) 356, Detroit, MI

- 1—SCOTT STEINER**
(1) 251, Detroit, MI
- 2—STING**
(2) 260, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—RICK STEINER**
(-) 248, Detroit, MI
- 4—RANDY SAVAGE**
(-) 237, Sarasota, FL
- 5—DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE**
(C) 260, Tampa, FL
- 6—RIC FLAIR**
(6) 243, Charlotte, NC
- 7—REY MISTERIO JR.**
(5) 140, San Diego, CA
- 8—RAVEN**
(-) 235, Short Hills, NJ
- 9—BAM BAM BIGELOW**
(-) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 10—RODDY PIPER**
(-) 247, Glasgow, Scotland

WWF

World Champion:

THE UNDERTAKER

(3) 328, parts unknown

- 1—THE GODFATHER**
(1) 340, Las Vegas, NV
- 2—STEVE AUSTIN**
(C) 252, Victoria, TX
- 3—THE ROCK**
(2) 272, Miami, FL
- 4—HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY**
(4) 279, Greenwich, CT
- 5—MANKIND**
(6) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM
- 6—PAUL WIGHT**
(8) 500, Atlanta, GA
- 7—KEN SHAMROCK**
(5) 235, San Bernardino, CA
- 8—BILLY GUNN**
(-) 256, Austin, TX
- 9—AL SNOW**
(7) 232, Lima, OH
- 10—JESSE JAMES**
(-) 240, Marietta, GA

ECW

ECW Champion:

TAZ

(C) 248, Red Hook, NY

- 1—ROB VAN DAM**
(1) 237, Battle Creek, MI
- 2—JERRY LYNN**
(2) 214, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—TOMMY DREAMER**
(4) 245, Yonkers, NY
- 4—LANCE STORM**
(8) 234, Calgary, Alberta
- 5—JUSTIN CREDIBLE**
(7) 225, Waterbury, CT
- 6—SABU**
(-) 225, Bombay
- 7—PSYCHO SID**
(-) 318, West Memphis, AR
- 8—YOSHIHIRO TAJIRI**
(6) 224, Tokyo, Japan
- 9—SUPER CRAZY**
(5) 172, Mexico City, Mexico
- 10—LITTLE GUIDO**
(-) 221, Howard Beach, NY

NWA

NWA Champion:

NAOYA OGAWA

(C) 286, Tokyo, Japan

- 1—COLORADO KID**
(1) 231, Denver, CO
- 2—DOUG GILBERT**
(3) 241, Lexington, TN
- 3—DAN SEVERN**
(2) 265, Detroit, MI
- 4—GARY STEELE**
(10) 241, London, England
- 5—E.Z. RYDER**
(7) 230, Dallas, TX
- 6—FRENCHY RIVIERA**
(-) 450, Paris, France
- 7—STEVIE RICHARDS**
(-) 227, Philadelphia, PA
- 8—PSYCHO SID**
(-) 318, West Memphis, AR
- 9—SGT. CRAIG PITTMAN**
(-) 270, Parris Island, SC
- 10—MIKE ROSELLI**
(6) 265, Vancouver, British Columbia

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

For period ended May 27, 1999

ALL PRO WRESTLING: Champion—Vinny Massaro; 1—Boyce LeGrande; 2—Maxx Justice; 3—Michael Modest; 4—Donovan Morgan; 5—Frank Murdoch; 6—Vinnie Valentino; 7—Boom Boom Comini; 8—Nathaniel Sweetie; 9—Tony Jones; 10—Chris Ward.

AMERICAN INDEPENDENT WRESTLING FEDERATION: Champion—Rick Deeze; 1—Chainz; 2—Scorpion; 3—Lamont Steele; 4—Terminator X; 5—Dan Carson; 6—Robbie Evil; 7—Brian Danzig; 8—Major Havoc; 9—Steve Niles; 10—Jackie Anderson.

EAST COAST WRESTLING ASSOCIATION: Champion—Christian Cage; 1—Mr. Ooh La La; 2—Lance Diamond; 3—Steve Bradley; 4—Christopher Daniels; 5—Stevie Richards; 6—Glen Osbourne; 7—Ace Darling; 8—Mark Shrader; 9—Reckless Youth; 10—Jeff Peterson.

GLOBAL CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Rob McBride; 1—Keith Austin; 2—Wachee; 3—Johnny Lightning; 4—Spanky The Little Rascal; 5—Nicholas Gliarmis; 6—Lazeras; 7—Bam Bam; 8—Iron Chief; 9—Jimmy Valiant; 10—Phil DeCarlo.

GRANDE WRESTLING ALLIANCE: Champion—James Proper; 1—Mandingo Warrior; 2—Hellraiser; 3—Tom Brandi; 4—Atlas Rivera; 5—King Kong Bundy; 6—Frank Finnegan; 7—Ron Starr; 8—Alexi Takarov; 9—Jake Lawless; 10—Jason Vain.

MARYLAND CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Headbanger Mosh; 1—Romeo Valentino; 2—Tom Brandi; 3—Jimmy Cicero; 4—King Kong Bundy; 5—Corporal Punishment; 6—Stevie Richards; 7—Gillberg; 8—Julio Sanchez; 9—Lance Diamond; 10—Cueball Carmichael.

MIDWEST RENEGADE WRESTLING: Champion—J. Caster; 1—Pete Madden; 2—Madman Pondo; 3—Ty Dalton; 4—Big Bad Ben; 5—Deno Blade; 6—Bull Pain; 7—Donovan Morgan; 8—Jimmy Snuka; 9—Jacques LaFours; 10—2 Tuff Tony.

PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Lance Diamond; 1—Flash Flanagan; 2—Chris Daniels; 3—Venum Black; 4—Reckless Youth; 5—Glen Osbourne; 6—Joe E. Legend; 7—Mr. Ooh La La; 8—2 Cold Scorpio; 9—Vincent Goodnight; 10—Michael Modest.

RHODE ISLAND WRESTLING ALLIANCE: Champion—Bad News; 1—Wolverine; 2—Danger Boy Alfredo; 3—Danny Cama; 4—Butcher Brannigan; 5—Reverend Chane Brannigan; 6—Pierre The Mountie; 7—Bill Hall; 8—Tony Atlas; 9—Mael; 10—Davios.

SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Shane Helms; 1—C.W. Anderson; 2—Venom; 3—Otto Schwanz; 4—Toad; 5—Matt Hardy; 6—Major DeBeers; 7—Natrone Steele; 8—Boris Dragoff; 9—Cham Pain; 10—Jeff Hardy.

TEXAS CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Kurt Reigns; 1—Hardbody; 2—Iceman Parsons; 3—Canyon; 4—Tommy Nero; 5—Coach; 6—Mace; 7—Tejas; 8—Militia Man; 9—Action Jackson; 10—Pendragon.

TEXAS WRESTLING ALLIANCE: Champion—Chip Riggs; 1—Jason Nash; 2—Johnny Blade; 3—Sid Sexy; 4—Big Jon Murder; 5—Italian Icon; 6—Crash; 7—Dre; 8—Armageddon; 9—Necro Butcher; 10—Tom Cat.

WORLD WRESTLING ALLIANCE: Champion—One Man Gang; 1—Mr. Wrestling III; 2—Kevin Northcutt; 3—The Reaper; 4—Tracey Smothers; 5—Sweet Stan Sweetan; 6—Adrian Steel; 7—Tommy Rich; 8—Chris Adidas; 9—Doink; 10—Terry Bryant.

NEW JAPAN

IWGP Champion:

KEIJI MUTO

(C) 245, Tokyo, Japan

1—KOJI KANEMOTO

(1) 205, Osaka, Japan

2—HIROYOSHI TENZAN

(5) 270, Tokyo, Japan

3—GENICHIRO TENRYU

(6) 235, Fukui, Japan

4—KENSUKE SASAKI

(2) 233, Tokyo, Japan

5—MASA CHONO

(3) 235, Tokyo, Japan

6—JUSHIN LIGER

(9) 206, Hiroshima, Japan

7—SATOSHI KOJIMA

(8) 223, Tokyo, Japan

8—SHIRO KOSHINAKA

(7) 225, Tokyo, Japan

9—DON FRYE

(4) 205, Sierra Vista, AZ

10—TATSUMI FUJINAMI

(-) 234, Oita, Japan

ALL-JAPAN

Triple Crown Champion:

MITSU HARU MISAWA

(2) 228, Saitama, Japan

1—KENTA KOBASHI

(1) 261, Tokyo, Japan

2—VADER

(C) 450, Denver, CO

3—JUN AKIYAMA

(5) 230, Hiroshima, Japan

4—AKIRA TAUE

(3) 265, Tokyo, Japan

5—WOLF HAWKFIELD

(-) 272, New Port Richey, FL

6—TOSHI AKI KAWADA

(-) 245, Tizhigi, Japan

7—YOSHINARI OGAWA

(9) 202, Fichigi, Japan

8—JOHNNY ACE

(4) 250, San Bernardino, CA

9—TAKAO OMORI

(8) 221, Tokyo, Japan

10—MAUNUKEA MOSSMAN

(-) 245, Honolulu, HI

EMLL

EMLL Champion:

RAYO DE JALISCO JR.

(C) 270, Guadalajara, Mexico

1—EL HIJO DEL SANTO

(1) 180, Tulancingo, Mexico

2—NEGRO CASAS

(5) 175, Mexico City, Mexico

3—BLACK WARRIOR

(7) 221, Mexico City, Mexico

4—SCORPIO JR.

(3) 195, Nezahualcoyotli, Mexico

5—BEASTIA SALVAJE

(-) 205, Mexico City, Mexico

6—FUERZA GUERRERA

(-) 180, Mexico City, Mexico

7—ULTIMO GUERRERO

(2) 173, Mexico City, Mexico

8—BLUE PANTHER

(-) 215, Mexico City, Mexico

9—ZUMBIDO

(10) 210, Acapulco, Mexico

10—EMILIO CHARLES JR.

(9) 222, Mexico City, Mexico

AAA

AAA Champion:

PERRO AGUAYO

(C) 220, Zacatecas, Mexico

1—HEAVY METAL

(5) 180, Mexico City, Mexico

2—CIBERNETICO

(3) 235, Mexico City, Mexico

3—OCTAGON

(1) 180, Monterrey, Mexico

4—ABISMO NEGRO

(4) 210, Pachuca, Mexico

5—PERRO AGUAYO JR.

(6) 165, Zacatecas, Mexico

6—LATIN LOVER

(10) 190, Monterrey, Mexico

7—BLUE DEMON JR.

(7) 180, Toluca, Mexico

8—JERRY ESTRADA

(9) 239, Montclova, Mexico

9—PENTAGON

(2) 175, Pachuca, Mexico

10—CHARLY MANSON

(8) 221, Mexico City, Mexico

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 22 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Knocking Nash? You might be a little surprised to see **Kevin Nash's** name below the names of both new WWF World champ **The Undertaker** and former champ



Kevin Nash

Steve Austin in our Top 10. After all, "Big Sexy" is the reigning WCW World heavyweight champion, and he should merit serious consideration for the *top* spot, right? Well, you could easily make the argument that he didn't do much to earn his World title shot against "**Diamond**" **Dallas Page** at Slamboree. Remember, **Bill Goldberg** pinned him cleanly

at Spring Stampede, the pay-per-view that was held just one month earlier.

The only reason Nash got his title shot was that he struck a deal with **Ric Flair** while Flair was World champion and WCW president. Flair guaranteed him the World title match at Slamboree if he made sure Flair didn't lose the belt in a four-way match on *Nitro* in April. Since the "Nature Boy" walked out of that particular match as the champion, Nash got his title shot. But just a few weeks prior to Slamboree, he was pinned by Page in yet another four-way World title bout.

So in other words, he didn't have a whole lot of momentum going into his showdown with Page. And he was even pinned by DDP in that match—after "**Macho Man**" **Randy Savage** interfered. But thanks to **Eric Bischoff**, who told referee **Nick Patrick** what happened and asked him to restart the match, Nash got another chance. He made good on that opportunity by powerbombing and pinning Page for the championship.

But what has Nash done since? On the good side, he has shown a willingness to put the gold on the line on *Nitro* and the occasional *Thunder*, but what we really want to see is him putting his belt on the line a lot more regularly and winning a lot of matches convincingly. Prior to his title win, Nash hadn't been appearing on many WCW arena shows ... and that didn't change in the first few weeks after Slamboree.

The WWF, on the other hand, books its World champi-

on on almost all arena cards (assuming he's healthy) and he defends his belt on a good percentage of those cards.

Since Nash did win the match at Slamboree cleanly once it was restarted, we've elected to give him the number-three spot, but we won't necessarily keep him there next month if he's still champion.

A tale of two Steiners. If we told you that one Steiner brother would make our Top 10 in this issue, you'd probably guess that it'd be **Scott Steiner**. After all, "Big Poppa Pump" has been making more headlines than his brother **Rick** the last few months. First he won the WCW TV title. Then he lost it to **Booker T**. Then he beat up his buddy **Buff Bagwell** because he blamed Bagwell for the TV title loss. Then he beat Booker T in the finals of a tournament for the U.S. belt. Heck, Scott is even featured on the cover of this very magazine.

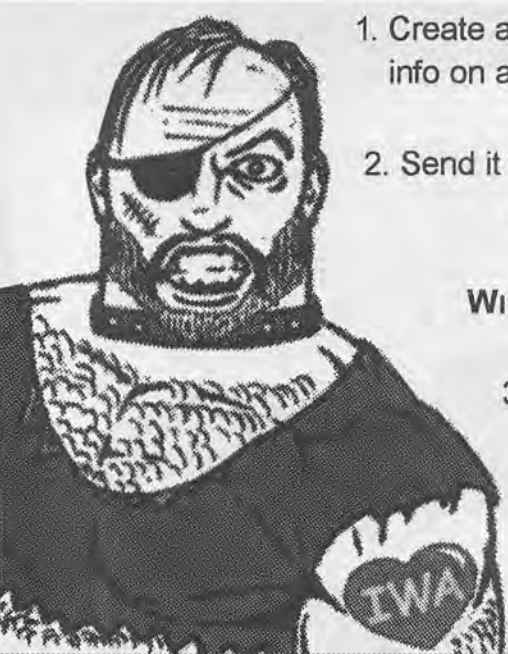


Scott Steiner

But since winning the TV title and reuniting with his brother at Slamboree, **Rick** has been the more dominant champion. What impressed us most was a series of wins he had against "Diamond" Dallas Page near the end of May.

Meanwhile, Scott continues to do his best to cause trouble for some of his enemies in WCW (**Sting** and **Goldberg**, for example), but he didn't do all that much wrestling in the weeks after he defeated Bagwell at Slamboree. It seems back problems are again plaguing him. So until we see that he's able to wrestle regularly again, we'll keep him out of the Top 10. Rick, who finally seems to be healthy again, grabbed the number-nine spot.

That's all for now! If you have any questions or comments pertaining to our ratings or what you see on this page, feel free to drop us a line. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □



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1. Big Ben



2. Ace Stevens



3. Jaeger van Dorn



4. Bodybag Jones



5. Wildfire Johnny Rage



6. Eric Darkstrom



7. Nook the Secret Weapon



8. Derek Craven



9. El Diablo Sanchez



10. Tygar Singh

WEAR-DOWN

1. Airplane spin
2. Armbar
3. Armdrag
4. Armlock
5. Arm stretch
6. Arm whip
7. Asian spike
8. Bear hug
9. Biting
10. Body slam
11. Body tackle
12. Chicken wing
13. Choke
14. Claw
15. Clothesline
16. Cross body block
17. Double axehandle
18. Drop kick
19. Eagle split
20. Elbow smash
21. Eye gouge
22. Face rake
23. Fireman's carry ram
24. Flying body press
25. Flying clothesline
26. Flying drop kick
27. Flying elbow drop
28. Flying head butt
29. Flying mare
30. Forearm smash
31. Foreign object
32. Full nelson
33. Giant swing
34. Grapevine
35. Hair pulling
36. Hammerlock
37. Head lock
38. Head stomp
39. Heart punch
40. Hip roll
41. Irish whip
42. Knee drop
43. Leglock
44. Manager interference
45. Monkey flip
46. Overhead toss
47. Pole ram
48. Reverse chinlock
49. Rolling scissors
50. Rope burn
51. Savate kick
52. Scissors grip
53. Shoulder breaker
54. Slingshot
55. Snap mare
56. Slap-over toe hold
57. Suplex
58. Surfboard
59. Tumbuckle smash
60. Wristlock

SET-UP

61. Abdominal stretch
62. Atomic drop
63. Avalanche
64. Backbreaker
65. Backroll press
66. Belly to belly
67. Big splash
68. Boston crab
69. Brain buster
70. Bulldog
71. Camel clutch
72. Cobra clutch
73. Cradle
74. Crucifix
75. DDT
76. Figure four
77. Flying leg drop
78. Gourd buster
79. Indian death lock
80. Neckbreaker
81. Piledriver
82. Power bomb
83. Power slam
84. Russian sickle
85. Sleeper
86. Slingshot suplex
87. Small package
88. Spine buster
89. Sunset flip
90. Superplex

YOUR NAME (PRINT NEATLY)

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

WRESTLER'S NAME (DO NOT USE ANY REAL PRO WRESTLER NAMES)

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1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____
 6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 10 _____

Set-Up Holds: Choose 5 of the holds at the left numbered 61-90. Only use a hold once.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____

Finishing Hold: Create your own custom final maneuver or choose a hold from our list.

Opponents: Mark the number of each man you wish to challenge (mark #8 to fight Derek Craven, etc.)
☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10

drawing BLOOD

By Jason Conlan

... you know why it's so easy for us to change places when we're wrestling in the states? none of the officials there can count to five in roman numerals... hell, tony schiavone called me 'ivy' for my first three months with wcw.



mister j.

I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU WERE HOPING FOR, BUT I THINK YOU'VE STILL GOT A LITTLE TO LEARN BEFORE YOU TACKLE THIS WHOLE GUARDIAN ANGEL THING...

R.I.P
JOS
LEDUC.



mister j.

... THIS IS FOR ALL THE WOMEN WHO CAME TO SEE ME - AND THANKS FOR THAT MOM AND SIS. ... AND FOR ALL THE MEN WHO WANT TO BE ME - YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE; YOU GUYS IN THE STRAIGHT JACKETS... DROOLING... I THINK SOME OF YOU ARE CURRENTLY SHARING ROOMS WITH RIC FLAIR... YEAH. YOU GUYS...



mister j.

look doc, it's not you, it's me... it's just been so long since i've needed to, i've actually forgotten how to get someone over based on actual wrestling ability!

doc death
released
from his wwf
contract - news



mister j.

doctor kervorkian would have a better chance...

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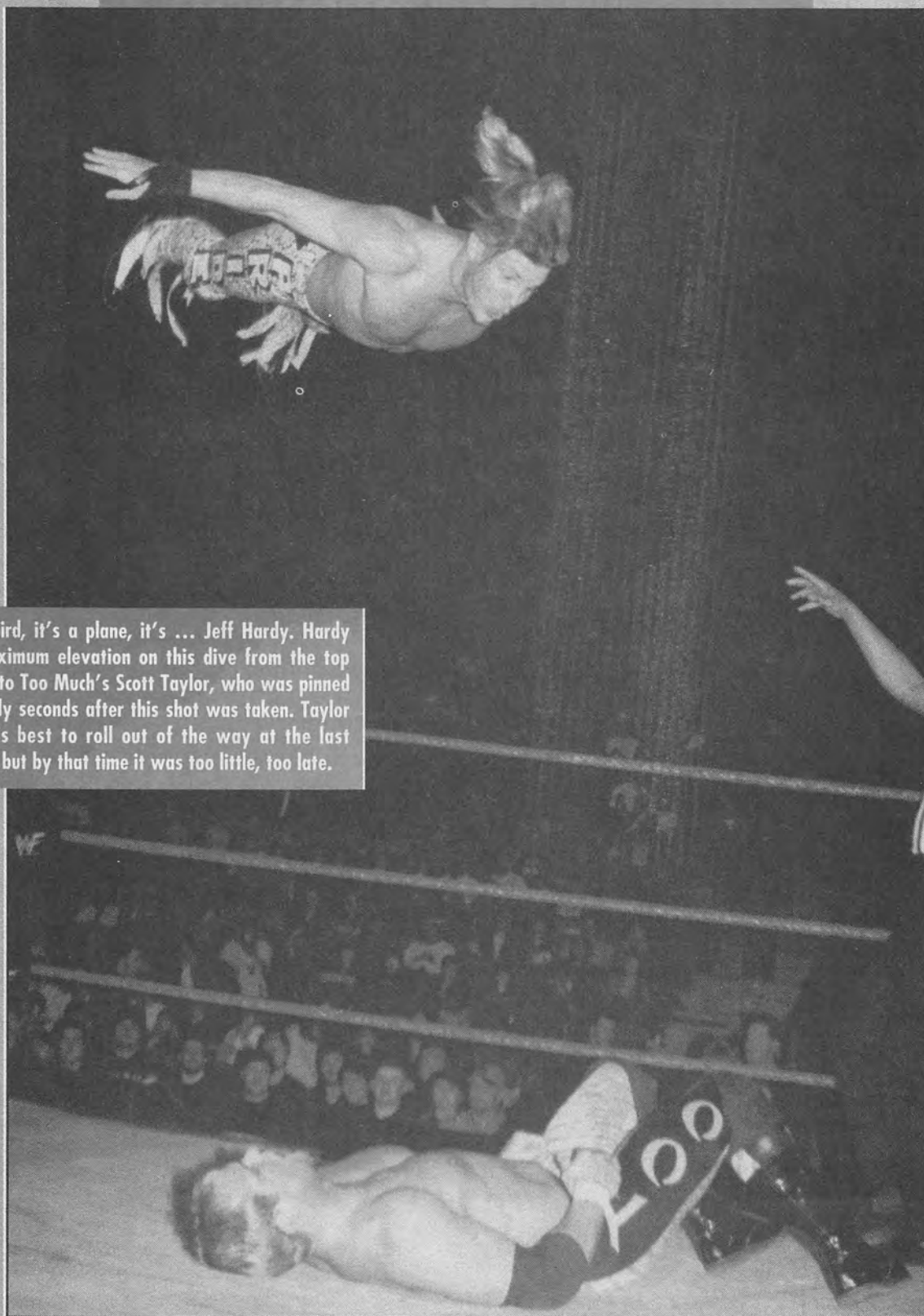
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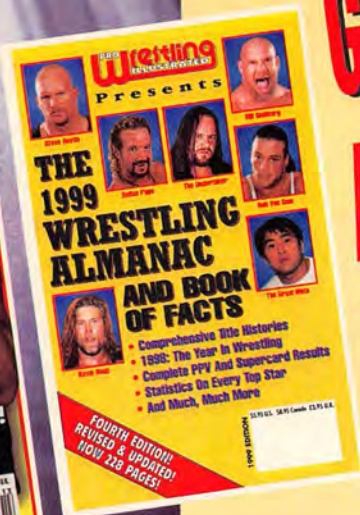
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HOT SHOT



It's a bird, it's a plane, it's ... Jeff Hardy. Hardy got maximum elevation on this dive from the top rope onto Too Much's Scott Taylor, who was pinned by Hardy seconds after this shot was taken. Taylor tried his best to roll out of the way at the last minute, but by that time it was too little, too late.



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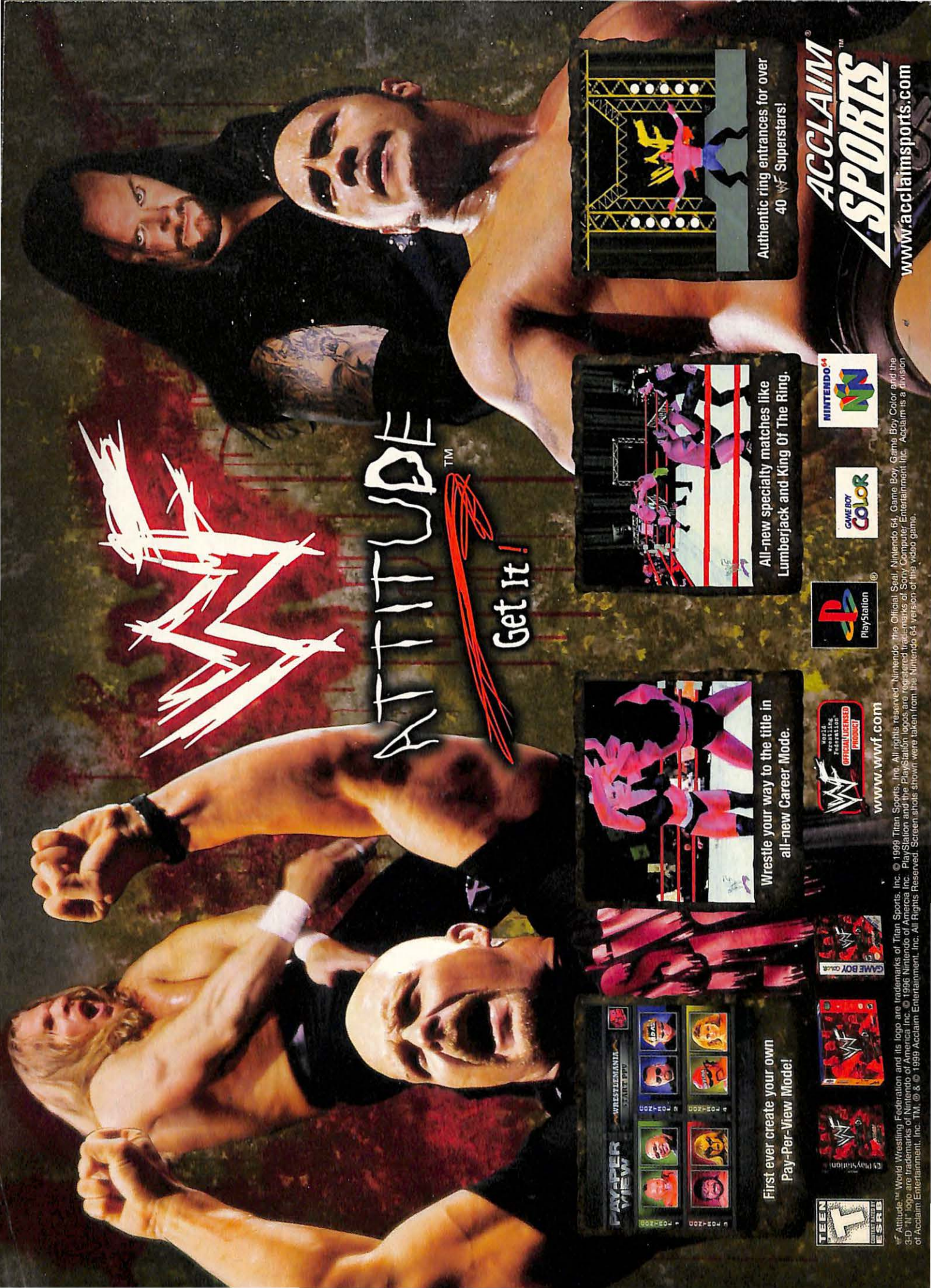
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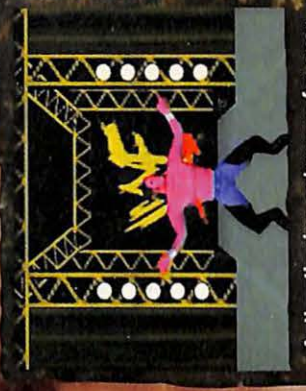
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